

The Zion Bell

September, 2007

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

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And now, for something completely different...

EET's... (*cue the Monty Python music*)

Ah, yes, the opening and segue from the utterly bizarre British comedy team. Usually these words were spoken by a properly and sensibly dressed man seated behind a proper, sensible desk, as if droning on in another edition of a local evening news cast. But then the camera would pull back, and there he would be, inside a zoo cage, floating in air, or in some other nonsensical setting. Then we'd be treated to some utterly bizarre British comedy bit, like a man with a tape player up his nose, or his friend's nose, or both—in stereo.

You never knew what was coming next, but that bit—“And now, for something completely different” - would set you on alert for something particularly interesting! Well, the same thing's happening here at Zion. This summer, Andrea came up with something completely different—a mission trip at Zion. Having never done this before, we didn't really know what to expect. But like the Monty Python sketches, something truly original happened anyway.

Around a dozen youth used the funds they had raised for a mission trip somewhere else to stay in Omaha and fix things up around the church. Our LWML circles came and fed them. The youth worked like crazy, even though it was hot and humid. (*See page 4 of this Bell for a list of completed projects.*) They had fun. They studied the Bible. They gathered for worship. They slept at the church through the night (well, not quite ALL through the night...)

With the great cloud of opportunities surrounding our youth for other social and recreational activities, finding “something completely different” to set apart Church activity from standard school activity is getting increasingly difficult. What is the one thing the church has to offer that the world outside the church can never offer our youth? The forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation that is ours in Jesus Christ. This remains the heart and soul of our youth program, whether it is in service to others, shooting each other with paintball pellets, or playing pinball in the youth room.

Ah, yes, you're saying. Our youth **SHOULD** be getting together. They **SHOULD** be establishing ties of Christian fellowship! They **SHOULD** be studying the Bible together! They **SHOULD** be going to church, worshipping together, serving others, and preparing themselves to meet the challenges of the world in which they will be living! “Yes, get **THOSE YOUTH** involved! After all, **THEY** are the church!” we love to say.

Sad thing is, this admonition is all too often heard from parents and other adults who themselves are not availing *themselves* of the opportunities for Christian fellowship, Bible study, worship, service, or preparing themselves to meet the challenges of the world in which they presently live! **WE** are the church, too! **ALL** of us! Bible Classes are not just for the youth. They are for all of us. Worship is not just for adults. It's one of the “completely different” things that allows three or four generations of family to do the same thing at the same time. Together, Worship and Bible Class should both be enjoyed by parents and their children on a weekly basis. Parents need to take on the role of leaders and children need to respect and honor their parents' leadership in these matters. That goes for high school students as well as the voluminous preschool classes we have coming up these next few years.

God's children—whether 3 years old or 103—are fed daily. They will either be fed by the ways of the world or they will be fed by the Word of the Lord. God says, (John 17:14-16) **“I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”**

So what's it going to be for you and your household this fall—devotion to the ways of the world, or “now, for something completely different, EET's...” *Cue the music, “The Church's One Foundation”* The Forgiveness of Sins, Life, and Salvation of Jesus Christ! Tune in each and every week! I promise: No tape players up my nose (or my friend's nose), just the Good News of Jesus Christ!

PASTOR SCHMITT'S Top Ten List

If you hadn't noticed, Zion is being overrun inside and out by crickets these days. While mowing the lawn, literally thousands of the little black things are hopping all over the place. Every time I move a rock, downspout, or branch, dozens of crickets hop away. YUCK! (Yes, we're spraying. Hope it helps.) So, from our experience, here are the

TOP TEN SIGNS

YOU'VE HIRED THE WRONG EXTERMINATOR:

10. His first solution involves tactical nuclear weapons.
9. He posts hundreds of tiny little flyers around your property saying American Idol is holding auditions in Los Angeles next week to find the next Jiminy Cricket.
8. When he opens the doors of his truck, dozens of crickets jump out, and he calls them back by name.
7. After he sprays, the crickets not only stay alive, they get bigger and louder.
6. Believing an organic approach is best, he proposes releasing hundreds of lizards on your property.
5. He asks, "Did you know some cultures prize the sound of crickets and even construct ornate cages to display the little chirping buggers? So why are you trying to get rid of them?"
4. You catch him sitting in a lawn chair tending a fishing pole with tiny little hooks on the end of the line.
3. Worse, he's catching and releasing!
2. He charges \$10,000, and guarantees that the crickets will be gone in six months or the first hard frost, whichever comes first.

And the number one sign that you've hired the wrong exterminator:

1. Being deathly afraid of crickets, he runs screaming from the grounds!

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 Education, Mitch and colleen Johnson, and Terry



DEDICATION SERVICES

Lamb of God Ev. Lutheran Church & Academy
7033 L Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68127
Sunday, September 23, 2007
4:00 PM
Potluck following the service

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Beautiful Savior Lutheran church  
7706 S. 96th Street  
LaVista, NE 68128  
Sunday, September 30, 2007  
3:00 PM  
Refreshments following the service

### CONCORDIA JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL

The Concordia Jr/Sr High School boy's basketball program is in search of an assistant junior varsity basketball coach for the upcoming season (2007-08). Duties would include attending practices, attending games, and helping young men grow to achieve their full potential. If you are interested, please contact Dan Masters at 445-4000, ext. 3111.

# 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. Bring a pair of scissors to donate to Sunday School.

## PARENTS AND TWOS September 16-November 4 9:15-10:15 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.

## SAND VOLLEYBALL

9th - 12th Grade  
Sunday, September 9  
5-6:30 PM

Johns-Bohn Park - Bennington

All high school youth and their friends are invited to an evening of sand volleyball. John-Bohn park is located at 162nd and Bennington Road. Dinner will be provided. **Please sign up by noon on Sunday, September 9 in the ZIGGY Room.**



## PAINTBALL

6th- 12th Grade  
Sunday, September 16  
11:45 - 5 ish  
\$20 +

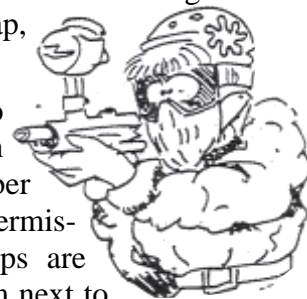
**RSVP by Wednesday, Sept 12**

You and your friends are invited to an afternoon at Husker Paintball Adventures.

**Cost:** \$20, which includes: lunch, rental of paintball gun, mask and 200 paintballs. For those of you with a heavy trigger finger, you will need more money for additional paintballs. Check out price for paint at ([www.huskerpaintball.com](http://www.huskerpaintball.com)).

**What to wear:** You should wear clothing that covers your body (pants & long sleeves), that can get muddy, shoes that are close toed and strap to your feet (AKA: sneakers), and a head covering of some type is a good idea (ball cap, stocking cap, dew rag)

**What else you need to know:** You must turn in by Wednesday, September 12th: \$20 and a signed permission slip. Permission slips are located in the ZIGGY room next to the Paintball sign up sheet.



**Parents and Adults are invited!**

**CONFIRMATION & BIBLE BUDDIES  
Begins Wednesday, September 5**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

|         |                                    |
|---------|------------------------------------|
| Sept 5  | Confirmation Starts (6-8th Grade)  |
| Sept 5  | Bible Buddies Begins (K-5th Grade) |
| Sept 9  | Rally Day                          |
| Sept 9  | Volleyball (9-12th Grade)          |
| Sept 16 | Paintball (6-12th Grade)           |
| Sept 30 | Pie Auction                        |
| Dec 15  | Children's Christmas Service       |

# ZION'S ANNUAL PIE AUCTION &

## PIE IN THE FACE CONTEST

**Sunday, September 30  
11:45 AM**

It's that time again when we get to leave church with wonderful homemade pies, a full belly, and one lucky individual gets to go home sticky because they received the most votes.

This year's Pie Auction is being hosted by Zion's Youth Group (AKA: ZIGGY). All funds raised will go towards their operating costs, so that they can remain a non budgeted item on the church budget for another year.

Lunch will be a potluck with brats and hotdogs being provided by the Youth, followed by the pie auction.

Who will be the lucky person to get the pie in the face this year? Your vote costs \$1. Vote for whoever you think needs or deserves a pie in the face.

ZIGGY is also looking for some wonderful cooks to donate pies and cakes!

See you there!!

## ZION'S SERVANT EVENT

This August 12 youth and 8 adults spent 3 days at Zion playing, praying, and working hard.

For 3 days they did things like plant 8 trees, move and repair the sign by the street, stain the shelving for the new church library, lay carpet, lay base boarding, paint, fix shelving, ID church chairs, wax pews, weed flower beds, trim trees, clean the storage closet, temporary fix the washed out area in gravel parking lot, and volunteer at a local homeless shelter.

Many thanks to all those that helped, those that cooked food (Rebecca Circle, Lydia Circle, Laura Deardoff, Shelly & Aaron Wurtele) and those that opened their houses to hose off the youth!



I cannot believe all the projects that the youth of Zion accomplished under the leadership of Andrea Roettger in just 3 days! All this was done with their very own funds and hard work. First I noticed the shiny waxed pews, next the painted information sign by the road and the planting and mulching of trees. I understand work was done in the junior high room, chairs were repaired and work done in the parking lot to the west.

Thank you so much for the trees and other supplies provided. You are a great group and we thank you! ZIGGY you are truly Zion's Inspired Group of God's Youth.

May God Bless Each of You!

Violet and Terry Christensen



The church office is in need of a laptop computer that is capable of running "Power Point".

If you have replaced your laptop recently and would be willing to donate your used laptop computer, please contact the church office (493-1744).

## Pie in the Face Contest

Andrea Roettger respectfully requests votes be cast for Chris Wurtele...long time member, elder, youth sponsor, and has never been hit by a pie. (Which is a shame!)

Chris Wurtele asks that the members of Zion vote early, vote often for Andrea Roettger, who in her tenure here at Zion has never received the dubious honor!



# BIBLE BUDDIES

On September 5th our Bible Buddies adventure for children in Kindergarten through the 5th grade begins. Join us on Wednesdays, from 5:30 - 6:35 in the church basement.

## What We Need!

1. Your child(ren)'s registration form (please register even if you have attended in the past)
2. Volunteers! Volunteers are always loved!
3. You to invite your friends, family, neighbors, and random strangers to take part. Who knows what miracles God has in store?
4. Cases of canned popular soda or juice or full sized candy bars

| Name | Age | Grade |
|------|-----|-------|
|      |     |       |
|      |     |       |
|      |     |       |
|      |     |       |

### Bible Buddies Child(ren) Registration Form

Parent or Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Other Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent willing to volunteer? (circle) YES! no

**For more information contact the church office at 493-1744 or  
email DCE Andrea Roettger at [zionwestdce@msn.com](mailto:zionwestdce@msn.com)**

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

Proverbs 22:6

How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Psalm 119:9-11

## 2007 Sunday School Registration

Parent Names:

Address:

Home Phone:

Cell Phone(s):

E-mail Address:

| <b>Child's Name</b><br><small>(Include last name<br/>if different than parents')</small> | <b>Grade</b><br><small>(P=Preschool,<br/>K=Kindergarten)</small> | <b>Birth Date</b><br><small>(Include year)</small> | <b>Baptism Date</b><br><small>(Include year)</small> | <b>Comments</b><br><small>(allergies, disabilities, etc.)</small> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
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**PLEASE RETURN FORM BY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9**

## **LYDIA & REBEKAH CIRCLE JOINT MEETING**

On September 15, the Rebekah and Lydia Circles are hosting a salad luncheon in conjunction with their annual joint meeting at 12:00.

At this event, we will have a speaker, Virginia VonSeggern, who is a past LWML National President from our own state of Nebraska. She will give a presentation of a trip she took to Africa. This is an open invitation for anyone who would like to visit and hear this speaker and enjoy some delicious salads.

### **REBEKAH CIRCLE NOTES**

Nine members of the Rebekah Circle met on July 24th for their regular meeting.

Laura opened with a devotion activity to complement our Bible Study "Fan the Flame" from the Quarterly. In this study we were reminded that the Holy Spirit empowers us to use our gifts to God's glory.

The minutes were read and approved and Joann gave the treasurer's report in Barb's absence. Judy gave the Sunshine report with Sympathy going to Beulah Witt family, Leonard Damon family (his mother), and Kenneth Price family (her father). Thinking of You messages were sent to Joan Pistillo and Marlys VanPelt.

We discussed the serving of the 5:00 dinner to be held on Aug. 3 for the Youth Mission group. We will serve tacos, jello salad and brownies. Joann, Kathy, Judy, Laura and Mary will serve.

The August collection for Project Hope will be shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste. Of course, all food items are still needed. Kathy reported that there will be a reception at St. Mark to honor Mary Ann Johnson who is retiring as director of Project Hope on Aug. 19 from 2-4 pm. Carol made a motion that we give \$15 to purchase food items to be given to Project Hope in Mrs. Johnson's honor, Laura seconded and all approved.

The tree for the Global Gift Boxes project will be up Aug. 1st. The tags for the tree were assembled after this meeting.

Judy reported that the Zone Board meeting will be Aug. 12, and the Fall Rally will be Oct. 14th at King of Kings. The Fall Retreat will be Sept. 8th at Trinity in Fremont with registration due Aug. 31st.

Our August meeting will be Family Nite Pot Luck with Carole and Mary as hostesses. In Sept., we will hold our Joint meeting with the Lydia Circle on the 15th. The speaker will be Virginia VonSeggern from Nebraska, a former President of the International LWML.

Birthdays were extended to Boni and Carol S. and Anniversary to Carol S., Marilyn and Judy.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer and Donna served a delicious dessert for refreshments.

Secretary, Mary Christensen

### **LYDIA CIRCLE NOTES**

The month of September is almost here and things always seem to get busier, if that is possible. The Lydia Circle helped serve the lunch for the funerals of several of our members; we offer their families our sympathy.

Our July 26th meeting opened with the Christian Growth leader reading an article "Friends are God's Way of Taking Care of Us".

On Aug. 4th three of our ladies served pizza, salad and desserts to 11 youth and 4 adults for the Youth Mission Group that did projects here at our church and also going to the Open Door Mission.

Bible Buddies will begin in Sept. and several ladies offered to make book bags for them.

A thank you note was read from the Earl Meade family for serving at Earl's funeral. Sympathy cards were sent to the family of Beulah Witt, Leonard and Janice Damon and the Kenneth and Cheryl Price family and thinking of you to Joan Pistillo and Marlys VanPelt.

We worked through the Bible Study, "It's A BIG World" from the summer quarterly as a group. There are so many people in this big world that need to hear about the Savior.

We closed with saying the Lord's Prayer and the table prayer together.

Verna Neuhaus served refreshments in the place of Ann Neuhaus. She served Apple Goodie, with our choice of ice cream or cool whip, also nuts candy and coffee.

The new "Mite" calendar was handed out to everyone. We are to follow the directions for each day for the month of August. What is collected will go towards the mite offering for LWML Sunday early in Oct.

August 30th will be our next meeting. We will have an 11:00 a.m. brunch in the lower level and will do some cleaning and organizing in the kitchen.

We welcome visitors at any time.

Secretary,, Aleta Neuhaus

## PROJECT HOPE

We had an excellent collection of school supplies for the month of July and so far August is doing well with food. We still are receiving school supplies as well as shampoo, deodorant, and toothpaste & toothbrushes. The featured items for September are toilet paper, paper towels, and diapers. There is still a great need for especially canned vegetables, canned fruit, macaroni & cheese, peanut butter, and rice. There have been some good sales on some of these items and that is the time to take advantage of helping Project Hope.

A farewell reception was given to Mary Ann Johnson the middle of August. Their hope was to collect a truck full of food that was to be brought in by those attending the reception. As I write this, I still do not know who the new Director will be but there were several very qualified candidates the last time I asked. I will let you know, as soon as I hear.

We have many new members here at Zion since we started being involved in Project Hope, so I thought it would be a good time to explain what Project Hope is. Project Hope is a Lutheran Food Pantry located in the area of 42nd and Ames. This is one of the poorest areas of Omaha. As a "client" of Project Hope you need to be registered. Then you may come once a month to get a pantry, which is one paper bag of food that serves 1-2 people. If you have a larger family, you are entitled to additional pantries. Project Hope does purchase food at a much lower cost from the Omaha Food Bank. However, the Omaha Food Bank is often very low or out of food themselves. Our donations help Project Hope to serve their clients and they are constantly serving more people and families each year. Project Hope is always very grateful for all the help Zion gives!

Kathy Rummel  
Food Coordinator, Project Hope

## MITE CALENDARS & MITE JARS

In the August Bell you received a mite calendar for the month of August and September. We are now at the halfway mark. Are your jars filling up? Remember to bring your jars on Sunday, October 7th for LWML Sunday. The National LWML voted this summer at their convention to raise enough mites for \$1,700,000 in mission grants. Look for a poster coming soon on the bulletin board that will list all of the grants to be paid between now and June of 2009.

If you do not have your calendar, extras are available in the narthex.

The Rebekah & Lydia Circles

## GLOBAL GIFT BOXES - INDIA

It has been wonderful to see how many tags have been taken from the **India** tree in the narthex. Just a reminder that when you take a tag or tags to return the tag with the item purchased and put in the basket by the tree. If you have any questions about the item you need to purchase, please look at the sample gift boxes so you can see how these twelve items need to fit in the box. Please do not purchase any toy or toothbrush that needs batteries. The children of India will not have batteries available to them. Also, read the tag carefully as some items are for certain ages and some items are for either a girl or boy.

## CULTURE OF INDIA

India's population of 1,080,000,000 people is the second largest in the world - only China surpasses it. Sources state that 16 to 25 percent of the people in the world live in India. The capital, Delhi, is home to over ten million Indians. While English is the primary language for business & politics, Hindi is spoken by about 30% of the people and over 400 other languages are spoken throughout the country. The literacy rate in India has risen from 18% in 1951 to over 66% as of 2001. The constitution states that education is free and compulsory for all children between the ages of 6 and 14, but many children in rural areas do not attend school because they must work to help support the family or take care of siblings left at home while parents work. Some schools provide excellent educational opportunities for children, but many others, especially in rural areas, lack funds and supplies necessary for effective education.

The caste system is a concept that grew out of a fundamental Hindu teaching brought to India by the Aryans around 1,500 B.C. In this system, all people of a society are born into castes (social rankings) from which they are not allowed to move. The highest level contained the priests and teachers, the second was the warriors and rulers, the third was merchants and farmers, and the lowest caste was for the servants and laborers. Some people were considered lower than the lowest caste and were called "untouchables". Even though it has been legally abolished, traditions and social behaviors continue to be dictated by the restrictions outlined by the caste system.

About two-thirds of the people are involved in some form of agriculture, although India has also established itself as a world leader in software and computer development. The diversity in economic and social status is immense. In the coastal regions of southeast India, many people rely on fishing for income and daily sustenance. The tsunami of 2004 destroyed vessels, docks, livelihood, and homes of these families. Families in this area are targeted to receive the **global care packages** our congregation is participating in this year.

The family is very important to Indians, and extended family members often live together. Women have historically held a lower place in society than men. Marriages are often arranged by parents, and caste line often determine choices for spouse. Many women's families still provide dowries of gifts to the family of the husband to solidify the commitment. Today, women in urban areas are more likely to have opportunities for better education and jobs than those in rural areas.

There will be more on the culture of India in the next Bell. Thank you to all who are making this mission effort possible for the children of India. A special thank you to Laura Deardoff for designing and printing the tags, a job well done.

The Rebekah and Lydia Circles.