

# The Zion Bell

## October & November, 2007



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

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## Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Scripture Alone, On Account of Jesus Christ Alone

Once again, our church will be observing Reformation Day this coming month. So what? What does the whole Reformation thing mean today, anyway? Are the teachings that important anymore? Let's go down the points of the Lutheran Reformation one by one and see if they are still relevant today:

### Point 1: Salvation by Grace Alone

Many denominations today profess to preach salvation "by grace." The trouble is the definition of that word "grace." In the Scriptures, it is so clearly defined as the undeserved love of God. Romans 6:14-15: ***For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!*** Here we hear Paul describe grace as the antithesis of the requirements of the law. But how many times do we hear, "If you were a good Christian you would/would not..." Ah, yes, we still need to proclaim salvation by grace alone!!

### Point 2: Salvation through Faith Alone

My Seminary professors were adamant that we get the prepositions right on this one. It's *through* faith that we receive the unconditional love (grace) of God. Yes, the Bible does use the terms "by faith" quite often, e.g. Rom. 4:16: ***Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace...*** But let Scripture interpret Scripture! Ephesians 2:8: ***For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this [faith is] not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast.*** Yet check out the self-help section of any Christian bookstore, and you'll find lots of ways to work on your faith life which neglect the means of grace. Yes, we need to continually preach this one, too!

### Point 3: Salvation revealed by Scripture Alone

Many people will confess that the Bible is the inspired, inerrant word of God, ***and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so***

***that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*** (2 Timothy 3:16). But even the devil knows the Scripture, and will seek to manipulate our understanding of it to obscure the clear, sure and certain hope of eternal life revealed in the pages of The Holy Bible. So yes, in a day and age where the Bible may be trusted as true, but seen as "just another book" and "open to anyone's interpretation," we need to preach and teach clearly the full counsel of God, rely upon the confessions of the Lutheran Church, and continually reform our ways and our minds to the hope that the Bible delivers.

### Point 4: Salvation won for us on account of Jesus Christ Alone

Ah, the politically incorrect statement of all time. The Scandal of Particularity. The Article on which the Church Stands or Falls: Jesus Christ, the most divisive person of all history! I don't know how many people will be reading this on the internet, but if the wrong people read this, I could be in huge trouble here!!! Apart from faith in Jesus Christ, there is no hope of salvation. John 14:6: [Jesus said,] ***"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."***

How scandalous! I was intimidated on this point in college, and this intimidation of our students in the classroom, employees in the workplace, and our acquaintances in the city square is only going to get worse as the days draw closer to Christ's return.

So yes, we need to preach this over and over and over and over again. We need to encourage one another to stand up for the faith as Luther did, even in spite of peril to his own life! We need to accept the cost of discipleship, take up the life-giving Cross of our Savior, and proudly live out our calling as ***a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.***—1 Peter 2:9

## PASTOR SCHMITT'S Top Ten List

While writing the previous article, I was reminded that this year will feature my 20-year reunion at Valparaiso University! Oh, the stories this could generate!!! Although I'm not going to the reunion, I am reminded of the

### **TOP TEN STUPID THINGS I DID IN COLLEGE AND THE LESSONS THEY TAUGHT ME:**

10. *Jumping off the football stadium stands into the snow taught me to look for the bike racks FIRST.*
9. *Spray painting my bicycle inside my dorm room taught me the extraordinary capabilities of overspray penetration, even into the tiniest crevasses.*
8. *The same project also taught me the relative nature of the term "Rust Preventative"*
7. *(OK, this one's from my roommate:) Cleaning your teapot by boiling pure white vinegar in it will make all your clothes, bedding, bed, and curtains REEK for MONTHS to come! (Not that I'm still upset about that, mind you!)*
6. *Running an electric train across the span of your room is cool until the train jumps the tracks. This taught me the cost of replacing HO locomotives.*
5. *Locking my obnoxious roommate out of the dorm room the first year taught me not to pull tricks on paranoid delusional people. Trust me. Don't do it.*
4. *Driving from Notre Dame to Fort Wayne and then back to Valpo late one night on a wrong highway taught me that "South" on a highway sign is not very reliable, and that I should carry maps at all times.*
3. *Just the lesson here: When asked out on a sorority formal blind date, ASK QUESTIONS FIRST!*
2. *An accident on I-80/84/90/94 through Chicago taught me how to repair a Volkswagen back to drivable condition on only \$24.00*

And the number one stupid thing I did in college:

1. *Volunteering to direct Valparaiso's Handbell Choirs taught me just how deficient I am when it comes to organization of the choir year, hearing mistakes, correcting them, etc. This taught me why I should never direct choirs again. Come join choir this Wednesday and see why this is most certainly true!*

## "A LOOK BEHIND THE WALLS"

Can anyone do anything about crime? Come and learn some of what God is doing. Good News Jail & Prison Ministry Fall Event has been scheduled for the DC Centre, 11830 Stonegate Circle on Monday, October 1 at 6:30 PM. The premier showing of the new GNJ&PM video, "A Look Behind The Walls" combines the annual celebrations for Douglas, Sarpy and Pottawattamie counties into one Tri-County event. The event is free but reservations are needed from Dorothy at 712-322-7402 or by e-mail, John.Heatley@goodnewsjail.org.

## FANCY FORK DINNER NIGHT

The location for the Fancy Fork dinner night will be at T-Bones Restaurant, 180th & Center, in the Spring Ridge shopping center. Anyone is welcome to meet there on Saturday, September 29 at 7:30. Please RSVP to the church office if attending.



## Pecans from Alabama

In time for the holiday season, Sheri Sanchez, a Wolsa delegate from Zion and parent of two Concordia Academy students, will be taking pre-orders/pre-pay for pecans. The price hasn't been fully determined yet, but it should be around \$8 a pound. They are scheduled to arrive the end of October. Inserts will be placed in the church bulletin closer to the actual order date. I understand that the pecans were very, very good. More will be printed closer to the order date. Thanks in advance for supporting your Wider Omaha Lutheran School Association.

## 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 Youth, Henry and Aleta Neuhaus, and Dom and Joan Pistillo for providing these goodies for the month of September.



## Sunday School Children to Sing in Church Service

We are planning to have the Sunday School children (Preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade) sing at the beginning of the 10:30 service on the second Sunday of each month, excluding December & January. October 14<sup>th</sup> & November 11<sup>th</sup> will be the first Sundays that we will sing. We work on the songs during Sunday School opening. Please have your children attend Sunday School openings (9:15) so that they will be prepared to sing in church. Parents are always welcome to attend the opening.

## Concordia Jr./Sr. High School

Concordia Jr./Sr. High School would like to invite any student interested in attending Concordia to their annual Open House for Interested Students on Friday, November 2, 2007. Guests will follow classes of Concordia students with highlights including a mid-morning chapel service and lunch served by Little Caesar's Pizza. The day will begin at 8:00 AM and conclude at 12:10 PM. Come join us!!

Parents are invited to informational meetings at Concordia on Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM and Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. This is your chance to visit our school and obtain information about the exciting educational opportunities at Concordia. We hope to see you there.

Placement Exams will be held on Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM.

Registration for the 2007-2008 school year will begin January 22, 2008.

Please call 445-4000 to confirm attendance for the Interested Student Open House, the Parent Information Meetings, Placement Exam, or if you have any questions.

Do you like to sing in the shower or sing along with the radio in your car? Then you're just the person we need! Zion's adult choir is starting up and we need more voices. We are a fun group that doesn't take itself too seriously. We're not looking for professionals, just people who would like to share their voice to sing to the glory of God. We would welcome all people from high school age to adult. Please consider joining us on Wednesday nights at 7:30 in the multi-purpose room/balcony and help us sing praises to the Lord.

## ZION'S ANNUAL PIE AUCTION

**Sunday, September 30—11:45 AM**

It's that time again we get to leave church with wonderful homemade desserts and a full belly.

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, followed by the pie auction.

## DESSERTS NEEDED!

The High School Youth are looking for some wonderful cooks to donate desserts to be auctioned off at the Pie Auction on Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. Please sign up in the narthex if you are able to donate a pie!



## 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!

## New Member Potluck

Please join us October 21<sup>st</sup> after late service to welcome Zion's newest members. Please bring a main dish and either salad or dessert to share. Drinks and table service will be provided. Come and say hi to our new Zion families.



## VOTERS' MEETING—October 14, 2007

Your presence is requested at the next quarterly Voters' Assembly on October 14 immediately following the 10:30 worship service. Lunch will be served.

# Student Ministry Events

## UNO FOOTBALL GAME

**6-12 GRADE**  
**OCTOBER 20**  
**12 PM-?**  
**\$5**

Join us for a University of Nebraska—Omaha football game as UNO takes on Minnesota Duluth. We will be leaving the church parking lot at 12 PM.



The cost is \$5 plus whatever else you might need. RSVP by Wednesday, October 17th. Sign up sheet in ZIGGY Room.



## CHALLENGE

**COURSE**  
**9-12 GRADE**  
**SUN., NOV 11**  
**12 -4:30 PM**  
**CAMP CAROL JOY**  
**HOLLING**  
**\$5**

Join us for this fun adventure at the indoor challenge course at Camp Carol Joy Holling in Ashland.

You don't need to be athletic, you don't need to be brave to have a great time at this event.

All you need is \$5 and shoes that strap to your feet. Please **RSVP by Sunday, November 4**. Sign up sheet in ZIGGY Room. We must have 10 youth to go!

## MARTY PARTY

**OCTOBER 21**  
**12-2 PM**

The Board of Education invites all to come and learn about Martin Luther (the guy who is responsible for the Lutheran part of "Zion Lutheran Church").

Things will start off with a potluck with Zion's newest members. Following lunch there will be fun games, activities, and prizes for all ages.



Come and join us for Marty Party!

All of this and much more in the lower level of the church.

## PARENTS AND TWOS

**NOW-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.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept 30	Pie Auction
Oct 20	UNO Football Game
Oct 21	Marty Party
Nov 11	Challenge Course
Nov 21-Jan 2	Bible Buddies & Confirmation on Winter Break
Dec 9	Mt Crescent Tubing
Dec 15	Children's Christmas Service

## JOINT MEETING OF THE REBEKAH AND LYDIA CIRCLES SEPTEMBER 15, 2007

- Pastor opened our joint meeting with a prayer. Eighteen members, one guest, Arlene Logeman, Pastor and our guest speaker, Virginia VonSeggern enjoyed an array of delicious salads, rolls and cake for lunch. Barb Kruse and Patty Sass were our hostesses.
- Virginia VonSeggern and Linda Reiser from Synod's Mission Board, along with their husbands went to Lome, Tago and other places in West Africa. Virginia showed us slides and told us about their trip. They traveled with the Rev. Michael Amegah, who is a graduate from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. He became an American citizen while studying here in America and is now a pastor in his home country.
- Minutes from both circles were read and accepted. The treasurer's reports were approved as read. Marybeth turned in a bill for the pizza the Lydia Circle served to the youth during their Mission weekend in August.
- A get well card was sent to Keith Rummel who had open-heart surgery in Rochester, MN. He was doing fine, had a setback, but is now back home recovering. He continues to be in our prayers.
- Judy Treadway gave a report on the retreat that she, Joann Walters and Elaine Raabe attended on Sept. 8 at Trinity Lutheran in Fremont, NE.
- We were reminded of the items we are collecting for the month of September for Project Hope which are toilet paper, paper towels and diapers. The items for October will be pumpkin and apple pie mix.
- Quite a few tags have been taken from the India tree, which we really do appreciate.
- LWML Sunday is the weekend of Oct. 6th & 7th. There will be a display in the narthex telling about the work of the LWML. That is when you should bring the baby food jars you took to put your mites in. Greeters, ushers and readers were lined up from both circles for the three services. Margaret Behrendt, Eunice Neuhaus, Joann Walters, Laura Deardoff, Marybeth Cohrs and Verna Neuhaus offered to bring coffee cakes to serve after the 8 a.m. service.
- The LWML Fall Rally is Oct. 14th at King of Kings with registration at 1:30.
- The annual bazaar is coming up! Nov. 3rd is the date of the bazaar, mark that date on your calendars. Tickets will be sold to win a snowman fleece blanket and a Swedish embroidered blanket. These items are made by two of our members. Watch the bulletins in Oct. for more information as to when the tickets will be available. Co Chairmen for the bazaar are Joann Walters and Aleta Neuhaus, kitchen chairmen are Judy Treadway and Marybeth Cohrs, dining room chairmen are Carol Scebold and Lois Costar and sales chairmen are Marlys VanPelt and Patty Sass.
- Marybeth Cohrs thanked all those who made book bags for Bible Buddies.
- Our meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.
- Secretaries Mary Christensen, Rebekah and Aleta Neuhaus, Lydia.

## PROJECT HOPE

Watch for the September poster of items collected for Project Hope this past month. The featured items for October are pumpkin or apple pie filling. Add to that a box of pie crust mix and a complete dessert can be made. In November, it will be time again to think of the things that are needed for a turkey dinner. We will again have our Turkey Box out for monetary collection to help Project Hope purchase turkeys for their clients. At this time, I do not know if a corporation will be helping them out or not.

Lastly, I have heard that a new Director has been chosen, but at this writing her name has not been announced. I will get this information to you when it is made available.

Kathy Rummel  
Project Hope, Food Coordinator

## GLOBAL GIFT PACKAGES - INDIA

It has been such a pleasure to see our India tree become more and more "undecorated" as the tags keep coming off the tree. There still are tags to be taken. Remember to please read the tag carefully as we need to collect some specific items. When you bring your item or items to church, please attach the tag(s) and deposit in the "India Basket" located on the table with the tree.

As was reported last month, here is some additional information on the culture of India:

Indian cultural practices vary a great deal throughout the country. Outside influences, religious affiliation, climate, and a community's specific historical background all play into the customs and practices of an area. Indians in the north typically eat more meat and wheat products than those in the south. Southern Indians are more dependent on rice as a staple. Hindus in all areas avoid beef, and Muslims will not eat pork. Coastal communities are dependent on the seas for their livelihood. Many dishes in India are similar to stews and are simmered in a variety of spices. While many people around the world associate the word "curry" with a particular spice which can be purchased at a store, Indians use the term to mean a specific combination of spices ground together to produce a distinctive flavor. Consequently, there are many "curries" or "Karis" and each one is very different.

Almost every part of Indian life is influenced by religion. Each person's choices, habits, and behaviors stem from the belief system to which they have given their allegiance. The bright colors in silks and cotton fabrics represent emotions, virtues and values consistent with religious teachings. Dances, art, and architecture are designed to honor the deities or teachings of different faiths. Cows, sacred to Hindus, are allowed to roam freely in communities, even when people are starving. Their milk is considered to be pure, clean, and unspoiled. Since the goal of Hinduism is purity of the soul, the giver of this pure substance, the cow, is highly regarded and milk is often placed before the gods as an offering. The Ganges River is a sacred place to Hindus as well. Even though it looks and tests to be heavily polluted, it is considered a goddess to the people and many travel great distances to wash in it. After cremation at the river's edge, many Hindu's ashes are scattered in the Ganges.

The next Bell will feature Religion in India.

Kathy Rummel  
Global Care Packages Coordinator