

The Zion Bell

October-November, 2008

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

Rev. Thomas K. Schmitt, Pastor
Andrea Roettger, Director of Christian Ed.
Pat Huels, Administrative Assistant



14205 Ida Street Omaha, Nebraska 68142
Phone: 402-493-1744 FAX: 402-965-8706

Pastor's e-mail: zionwest@msn.com

DCE's e-mail: zionwestdce@msn.com

Office e-mail zionwest2@msn.com

Four more years!

Where were you four years ago on Election Day??? The hot issue that year was gambling in Nebraska; "W" was up for a second term in the White house, and Zion was hosting a polling place for the first time.

The precincts for those voting here at Zion had been drawn well before a housing spurt placed many more in our precinct than we could handle. Lines stretched out the door early in the morning and persisted all day long. Ballots ran out. New ballots had to be printed and delivered. The waiting crowds were ushered into the sanctuary. One member, just coming in to vote, went back out to buy cookies for everyone. Circle ladies brewed coffee. We raided the Bible Buddies stash for drinks for the kids waiting with their parents. News Crews arrived. Four different local stations led off their news at 10:00 from our humble church. At 11:30 the final votes were cast. A couple news teams still covered **the last vote. Our church's sanctuary was the front-page photo on the next day's World Herald. What a day.** Boy, did I ever sleep well that next day!

Well, here we go again. Another election is coming, and we're hosting a polling place again. **This time we'll be prepared for the masses. (If you'd like to come up and help, please feel free to do so!) But the main issue we're focusing on here has little to do with sandwich crême cookies or hastily-brewed coffee. It has to do with meeting the needs of those around us on a regular basis.**

Four years ago, it was ministering to the physical and emotional needs of those waiting for ballots to arrive, seemingly, by pony express.

Today, the lines should be shorter, but what **other needs will those entering our church have? It's** been four years since we started getting surrounded by houses. Many folks have joined us since then, but

many more remain to be invited. What will YOUR role be in inviting them?

What are the issues they'll be dealing with?

Four years ago, it was what to do with their extra money (we hope) in gambling—whether that would happen in Iowa or Nebraska. This time around, that extra money is a lot harder to come by. How is that affecting the folks coming through our door?

Four years ago, we left the doors open during the day. **Since then, we've installed a buzzer system** to let people through locked doors. The drawbacks as well as the benefits of urban living are encroaching on our little country church.

Four years ago, Pat had just started working here. (What a way to start out working here, eh?) Andrea was in Florida dodging hurricanes. A lot of folks have since been born into their earthly lives, and many dear friends have been born into their eternal lives.

So lots of things have changed in four years, but some things remain constant:

- ✝ People in our neighborhoods still do not know Jesus.
- ✝ We have the capacity in Christ to reach out to all in any need.
- ✝ **We have the desire in Christ's love to love others** that God has placed in our lives.
- ✝ **We're still looking for ways to improve our outreach** to these friends we have not yet met.
- ✝ Christ will see us through the long days, the wise and foolish choices we make, and He will be there at the end of our days to grant us a blessed rest from our labors.

Pastor Schmitt's Top Ten List

It's time for my 25th High School reunion. Mary and I will be in Kansas City this weekend for the reunion and to spend some time with my Mom and Dad. I can't help but remember the 20th reunion—wasn't that just the other day??? - and the Top Ten changes I may encounter this time around . . .

- 10 *Less hair on heads, more coming out ears.*
 - 9 *With kids going into college, fewer soccer vans, more econo-boxes in the parking lot.*
 - 8 *Limps, bifocals, and hearing aids are more fodder for discussion than promotions, kids, and houses.*
 - 7 *Stories about teachers we had in high school replaced with stories about kids' teachers.*
 - 6 *Wonderment when the kids have the same teachers that we thought have retired long ago.*
 - 5 *Wonderment that we're now older than the teachers we though were old back then.*
 - 4 *Those who were talking about classmates in the pokey just might be in the pokey. Those who were in the pokey might be there to talk about others who are now in the pokey. People might not even say "pokey" this time.*
 - 3 *Those who live in KC and who see each other all the time might just bother to show up this time to see those of us who only get to these things once every five years.*
 - 2 *The guy who sat next to me in class is now "Mr. Stinky Feet???" (www.mrstinkyfeet.com)*
- And the number one change I may encounter as I attend my 25th High School Reunion:
- 1 *Other people may start having as hard a time remembering my name as I've ALWAYS had remembering other people's names!*

Thank You!

Boy Scout Troop 412 would like to thank the congregation of Zion Lutheran Church for outstanding donations after their Cooking Merit badge class in June. The Scouts prepared many delicious Dutch oven dishes and then offered them to the congregation after church service. The Scouts' collection was over \$700 that morning. All donations went to the Little Sioux Scout Ranch rebuilding fund. Thank you for being such a giving church!

FALL CLEAN-UP DAY OCTOBER 4

The Board of Church Properties would like to organize a Fall Clean-Up at the church on the morning of October 4 starting around 8:00 AM. The work will include trimming bushes and trees, pruning flowers, touch-up painting, cleaning some carpets, and anything else we can think of. If anyone has ideas of things that could be done, please let us know and come out for some fellowship. We would like to see as many volunteers as possible. If any members have tools or equipment to loan us for this day, that would be great as well.

CONTACTORS NEEDED

The board of church properties is looking for some contractors for a couple of jobs around the church. If you or someone you know are a contractor please contact Tregan Beck, 935-7830 (head of the properties board). We need a concrete contractor to fix the front steps and a general contractor to do some bracing in the Lakeview room. This would involve some light metal framing.

A CANDIDATE MEET AND GREET FORUM

Hosted by:

GFWC Bennington Woman's Club
and Friends of the Bennington Public Libraries

Where:

Bennington Elementary School Gymnasium

When:

Tuesday, October 14, 7-9:30pm.

The Forum is open to all candidates up for election in November, 2008.

Garage Sale

The Lutheran Home will have a large garage sale Saturday, October 4th!! They have been given many items from a partial estate. Funds will be supplemented by Thrivent Financial, and the amount received will be used for the Activity Fund to take residents on outings!

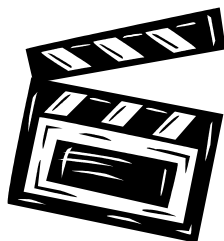
Student Ministry Events

HIGH SCHOOL MOVIE

OCT 12

2:30-5:30 PM

All high school youth and their friends are invited to an afternoon movie. The movie will be "Labyrinth"; don't worry, you will like it.



We will be watching the movie in a member's home movie theater. So you must call the church to find out the location.

HIGH SCHOOL GATHERING

NOV 21-23

DEADLINE, SEPT 28

\$85, \$75, \$10 OR FREE

Every 3 years all the Lutheran High School Youth (around 1,000 of them) from throughout Nebraska gather for a weekend packed full of activities and fun.

The Gathering will be at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Omaha. It will begin at 6 PM on Friday, Nov 21 and conclude at 11:30 AM on Sunday, Nov 23. We will be staying overnight at the Holiday Inn both nights.

The cost to you will be the registration fee of \$75, the entrance fee to Co-Co Key of \$10, plus meals (all meals except 2 breakfasts are included). The \$75 registration fee will be refunded to you if you attend Zion's High School Sunday School Class 6 times between now and the Gathering.

To register, turn in the "Emergency Information/Consent Form", a form of payment for either \$85 or \$75 by Sunday, September 28.



MARTY PARTY

NOV 2

11:45-1:30 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, candy 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.



MIDWEEK

Wed 5:30--6:30

K-5th Grade

Miss Vacation Bible School? Come to Midweek each week for a mini Vacation Bible School experience! Games, snacks, and crafts every week!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept 28	Pie Auction (6-12th Grade)
Sept 28	High School Gathering Deadline
Oct 12	Movie Matinee (9-12th Grade)
Nov 2	Marty Party (All)
Nov 21-23	NE District High School Gathering
Dec 20	Children's Christmas Worship Service
Dec 21	Progressive Dinner/Caroling
Jan 25	Skiing
Feb 15	Valentine's Dinner

New Member Potluck

Nov 2

11:45 AM

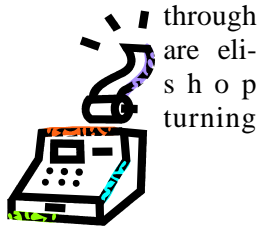
Fellowship Hall

Everyone is invited to a potluck to welcome Zion's newest members on Sunday, Nov 2nd after the 10:30 worship service.



Hy-Vee Cash for Students
Starts September 22, 2008

Hy-Vee is once again partnering with area schools in the CASH FOR STUDENTS fund raising program. Over \$160,000 in much needed funds has been donated to area schools by Hy-Vee over the last 9 years. Here's how it works: Parents, friends, grandparents, staff and administrators shop at any of the ten Omaha and Council Bluffs Hy-Vees. Turn in all your receipts to the school or to Zion and the totals will be tallied. The maximum award to be donated per school is \$2,000. Receipts dated from September 22 through 5:00 PM on December 31, 2008 are eligible for this promotion. Please turn in your receipts!!



Events at Concordia - Omaha

"SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL"

Nov 14 @ 7 PM; Nov 15 @ 7 PM; Nov 16 @ 2 PM

Call the High School 445-4000 to reserve your ticket

CONCORDIA HIGH SCHOOL'S FOOTBALL

Fri, Oct 3 - 4 PM Concordia VS

Johnson-Brock

Fri, Oct 24 - 4 PM Concordia VS

Conestoga High School

Zion's Annual Pie Auction

&

Pie in the Face Contest

Sunday, September 28

11:45 AM

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

This year's Pie Auction is being hosted by Zion's Youth Group. All funds raised will go towards their operating costs (activities, youth gatherings, servant events, supplies, pizza) so that they can remain a non budgeted item on the church budget for yet another year.

Lunch of brats and hotdogs will be provided, followed by the Pie Auction. The Youth that attended this summer's Servant Event to Idaho will be giving a short presentation during lunch.



All those wishing to see a special someone hit in the face with a pie this year, should see Andrea Roettger to start a vote jar. All votes are \$1.

Pie Needed!

The Youth Group looking for some wonderful cooks to donate pies and cakes for this year's Pie Auction (no, your pie will not be thrown)

Please bring all donated items to the church prior to the 10:30 worship service on Sunday, Sept 28.



Are you ready to join the Cub Scouts?

You can sign up now and join Pack 412 for the best scouting experience ever! Cubs in pack 412 benefit from participating in a focused, safe environment, and being with like-minded families.

Your son's adventures will be endless when he joins Cub Scouts. He'll participate in camping, Pinewood Derby Races, nature hikes, field trips, service projects, and more. Scouting is not only a great adventure, it's also a great builder of self-esteem and social skills, and a great way to meet new friends and learn new things. In order for your son to sign up for Cub Scouts, a parent must be present. The membership also includes a subscription to boys' life magazine. Boys rising to first grade or older can join cubs (ages 7-10).

Pack 412 has our Pack meetings each 3rd Monday of the month at Zion Lutheran Church from 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM. The Dens meet several times a month on their own schedule at different locations. We hope that you will join us. Call or e-mail us now for more information and to submit your son's scouting application. For more information, contact George McCoy (Email: GeorgeMcCoy@zion412.org). You can visit our website at www.zion412.org/pack412. Pack 412 is chartered by Zion Lutheran Church (West) Located At 144th and Ida Streets.



Cub Scout Promise

I, (name), promise to do my best
To do my duty to God and my country,
To help other people, and
To obey the Law of the Pack.

Law of the Pack

The Cub Scout follows Akela.
The Cub Scout helps the pack go.
The pack helps the Cub Scout grow.
The Cub Scout gives goodwill.

Cub Scout Motto

Do Your Best

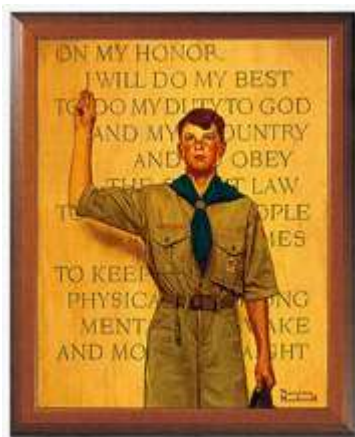
Are you ready to join the Boy Scouts?

Do you like to camp and enjoy the great outdoors? Scouting offers you the chance to learn skills like hiking, camping and learn about nature. You'll meet other scouts like yourself that may be in your school or church. You'll learn how to help others in your community. The fun starts now - the values last a lifetime.

A boy can join the Boy Scouts if he is 11 years old, or has completed the 5th grade, or the Arrow of Light Award and is at least 10 years old, but is not yet 18 years old.

Troop 412 meets most Mondays at Zion Lutheran Church at 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM. We camp at least once a month. We hope that you will join us.

Troop 412 is chartered by Zion Lutheran Church (West) Located At 144th and Ida Streets. For more information please contact Scoutmaster Kris Auch.



The Boy Scout Law

A Scout is:
Trustworthy,
Loyal,
Helpful,
Friendly,
Courteous,
Kind,
Obedient,
Cheerful,
Thrifty,
Brave,
Clean,
and Reverent.

Boy Scout Oath

On my honor, I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
and to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong, mentally
awake and morally straight.

Boy Scout Motto

Be Prepared

Boy Scout Slogan

Do A Good Turn Daily

An Opportunity for Mission Right Here in the Metro . . .

It was a sad day in Omaha when the former Zion/Peace congregation at 40th and Q Streets closed. But even then God's plans did not close down. LCMS Lutherans from all over the metro area have been praying and planning for God to make something new arise. God is answering those prayers and helping those plans to be made.

LCMS Lutherans have always been mission minded. We have sent missionaries all over the world. But in these days, God is sending the nations to us. The Omaha Police Department estimates there are almost 200,000 recent immigrants in the metro area from all over the world. Some are Christians. Many are not.

Additionally, there are many long-time residents in our city with a variety of spiritual, emotional, and physical needs. Some of them are our fellow church members, but thousands of them do not yet see Jesus as the foundation of the answer to their needs.

God is giving LCMS Lutherans and congregations in the Omaha/Council Bluffs metro an opportunity to touch the lives of these people. A task force has been working on launching a new, joint ministry of Gospel witness and human care.

On Sunday evening, October 12, at 7:00 p.m., LCMS Lutherans from all over the metro area and from all of our congregations will be meeting at the former Zion/Peace campus at 40th and Q Streets. The assembly will receive the report of the task force, hear how the Lord has already touched the lives of people benefiting from activities in the building, and learn how they can be part of this effort as it unfolds over the next months. Pray that God will lead you to be part of this walking together in mission right here in our metro area.

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 tasty, make the coffee (coffee and kool-aid already bought and in the cupboard), serve, and clean up.

Thank you to the Board of Youth, Mitch & Colleen Johnson, Max & Shirley Johnson, Henry & Aleta Neuhaus, Board of Education, Marlin & Janice Cohrs for providing these treats for August and September.

~Board of Fellowship~



CHRISTIAN LIFE CONFERENCE

Mark your calendars for the annual Christian Life Conference to be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Eagle, NE on Saturday, October 18th. The Reverend Dr. Ronald Feuerhahn will present on the Christian's vocation of suffering. As one who is afflicted by Parkinson's Disease, Dr. Feuerhahn is uniquely qualified to speak on this topic. Additional information is available by contacting Pastor Scott Porath at immanuelpastor@windstream.net

CONCORDIA JR. / SR. HIGH ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

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 7, 2008. 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 a.m. and conclude at 12:10 p.m. Come join us!!

Parents are invited to informational meetings at Concordia on Sunday, November 9th at 2:00 p.m. or Monday, November 10th at 7:00 p.m. At these meetings you will be able 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 24, 2009 at 8:00 a.m.

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.



Rebekah Circle News

On July 22 ten members were present at our meeting. Laura Deardoff led devotions with scripture readings centering on the importance of God's Word. We all joined in singing an Amy Grant song Laura played called "The Word." Pastor Schmitt continued the theme by leading the Bible study which was about quotes we often use that sound very biblical. We looked up Bible verses to find out if they are accurately quoted from the Bible or not. Some were not. Pastor made it a very interesting and informative lesson.

The business meeting included plans for LWML Sunday which is October 5th. Kathy Rummel reported on Project Hope and also on the Global Gift Project. There has been a great response to both. Members were reminded of the Fall Retreat in September. The meeting adjourned and Barb Kruse served refreshments.

The August meeting included our families. Kathy Rummel and Judy Treadway were hostesses for the evening which began with a potluck meal. There were twenty in attendance and nearly everyone stayed to play Bunco. Joann Walters was the hostess for that entertainment and we all had a very good time. Laura Deardoff tested our abilities by leading us in a Bible character identification game; that too was fun and informative.

In September Marilyn Walz will be the guest speaker for the joint meeting. She will help us all understand what the organization "American Mothers Inc." is and what it does for the community. We always welcome visitors at our meetings and we look forward to meeting more of you.

Carol Scebold, Secretary

Lydia Circle News

Our August meeting was held on the 28th. We had a potluck brunch at 11 a.m. in the lower level. Pastor opened our meeting with prayer and Christian Growth leader read an article titled "One Day at a Time". We are always to remember the most important in our life is GOD.

The secretary's minutes were read and approved and the treasurer's report was accepted as read. We were asked to serve refreshments at the 80th birthday of Marlin Cohrs on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 21st.

After our brief meeting we cleaned the kitchen in the lower level. There was some discussion on serving at funerals and we will discuss this further at the joint meeting with the Rebekah Circle. August birthdays were Lois Costar and Dolores Bradley; September birthday was Marybeth Cohrs.

Two ladies from the Rebekah Circle attended the LWML Fall Retreat which was held September 13 at Camp Carol Joy Holling.

Our joint meeting was held September 20th in the Lakeview Room. There was a salad luncheon at noon and Marilyn Walz, a member of our congregation who was 2007 "Nebraska Mother of the Year", was our speaker.

Our next meeting is October 30th at 1:30 p.m. We welcome visitors!

Aleta Neuhaus, Secretary

PROJECT HOPE

The last two months we have been having a good response of donations to Project Hope. The featured items for the month of October are pie crust and pie fillings. For November, the featured items are trimmings for turkey dinner such as stuffing mixes, gravy (canned or mix) mashed potatoes, cranberries (canned), salad dressing, canned vegetables, dinner roll mix, Jell-O, etc. Project Hope is also in need of packaged cookies, spaghetti sauce, dried soup (Ramen) and macaroni & cheese.

Some other items that Project Hope needs that their clients cannot purchase with their food stamps are: diapers, dish soap, bar soap, deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste, mouthwash (without alcohol), feminine hygiene products, hair products (combs, brushes, picks), shaving cream, shoe laces, razors, both dry and liquid laundry soap and Kleenex. When dish soap is donated, a hand knit dish cloth is attached to make it a little more special. The laundry soaps are divided into zip lock bags by Project Hope and the liquid is divided into 12 or 15 oz. water bottles.

Project Hope continues to be extremely thankful for all that the members of Zion do to help their mission ministry.

Continue to watch for the sales to help stretch your dollar and your donation!

Kathy Rummel, Project Hope Food Coordinator

GLOBAL GIFT BAGS

The Global Gift Bags are being delivered this month of October to the Orphan Grain Train. Zion did a tremendous job in taking the tags and bringing in their donations for this mission effort. Thank you to everyone who donated items to fill these gift bags for the orphaned children around the world.

Watch for information early next year on the Global Gift Bags for 2009.

Kathy Rummel, Global Gift Bag Coordinator

PROJECT HOPE / OPEN DOOR MISSION

We will again have a Project Hope Tree in the narthex to collect caps, scarves, mittens & gloves as we have done in the past. The Lydia & Rebekah Circles have decided this year to have this tree benefit both Project Hope and the Open Door Mission. The tree should be up about the first week of November. You may bring your donations of caps, scarves, mittens or gloves for children, women and men and just lay them on the tree. We will then divide the donations and deliver them to Project Hope and the Open Door Mission in time for Christmas.

We are starting this project a little earlier this year so that you can take advantage of the sales around Thanksgiving time!

CARD COUNTER

We now have our shipment of Christmas cards and napkins. We will have these available the beginning of November along with our supply of everyday cards such as Birthday, Get Well, Sympathy, New Baby, Wedding, Anniversary, Thinking of You, etc. Cards are available by the box or individually. Prices are marked. Someone will be available at most services to assist you.

POP CAN TABS

For a few years, Zion has been collecting the tabs from pop cans to benefit the Ronald McDonald House. The Ronald McDonald House now has a program entitled Thanks a Million. They will recognize those organizations, groups, or individuals that collect 1 million tabs. This last month, Zion turned in over 6,000 tabs! Zion has a volunteer willing to count and deliver the tabs. All you need to do is collect your tabs, put them in a zip lock plastic bag on the left counter of the Lakeview Room. This helps the Ronald McDonald House and also is doing our part to recycle.

BAKERY EVENT

Coming in November

A congregation participation

Sponsored by the Lydia and Rebekah Circles