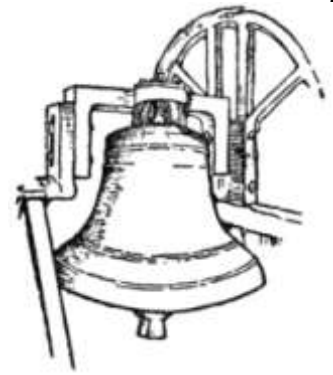




The Zion Bell

February-March 2011



For 125 Years

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Did You Know?

Psalm 107: ¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; His love endures forever. ² Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story—those He redeemed from the hand of the foe, ³those He gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south.

In the Centennial History Book prepared for Zion in 1886, the introduction reads, "This is not only a chronology of Zion congregation but also a personal history of the family of God. It is a story of **birth, growth, change, and happiness.**"

According to their own declarations, we only have two members who have been here from the beginning—Joan Pistillo and Joann Walters. The rest of us are part of that rebirth and change that God has been working within His little family of believers at Zion. We who have been "**gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south,**" each come with our own story, writing new and exciting pages each and every day into the history of Zion. But even as we do, it is worth while to take a look back on some of the things our Good Lord has done for Zion in the past:

Did you know...

- † Some of the first Lutheran immigrants who lived on these lands travelled to 20th and Mason to worship at First Lutheran Church?
- † Zion's first pastor earned \$300 a year?
- † The first building was only 40' by 24' and housed BOTH the church AND a school?
- † That bell out there by the road was originally purchased and installed in Zion's bell tower in 1900?
- † From 1918 to 1923, Zion was worshipping *illegally* because she still used the German language?
- † This "Siman Act" resulted in another Zion Lutheran's (Hampton) parochial school teacher, Robert Meyer, to be arrested for teaching in German, thus continuing

"the baneful effects" of allowing immigrants to educate their children in their mother tongue, with results "inimical to our own safety." The case went to the Supreme Court! Repercussions of that case and subsequent regulation changes led to the closing of Zion's school in 1924.

- † Zion's women have always been at the forefront of her activity. In 1934, the church expanded to 80' by 24' WITH a basement after the Ladies Aid came up with a \$700 challenge gift.
- † Sunday School students of today might cringe at the fact that in the 1950's, space was so tight that some classes had to meet in a tiny space behind the furnace! (At least they would have been warm. . .)
- † The vigor Zion puts into VBS might well be credited to Pastor Herman Brase who saw to it that over 100 students would be at VBS each year. In those days, VBS ran **ALL DAY** for **TWO WEEKS!!**
- † Our current Sanctuary was built in 1964, the same year Pastor Schmitt was born. Which has held up better?
- † In 1983, Mary Ann Tiedje hand crocheted the "Last Supper" communion veil that hangs from the balcony. It was in use for 20 years . . . and has no tears in it!
- † For her centennial, Vacancy Pastor Ave-Lallemant designed, crafted, and installed stained-glass windows in the Sanctuary and Entrance.
- † Dr. Oswald Hoffman, speaker of the Lutheran Hour for many years, spoke at one of Zion's Centennial celebrations!
- † Zion's addition was begun in 1999, but did not receive her final occupancy permit for nearly three years.
- † Our story's just beginning. . .

*"Give thanks to the Lord,
for He is good!"*

125th Anniversary Celebrations Begin February 26-27

Do you know where you were 25 years ago? Had you been a member of Zion, you'd likely have been growing a beard, getting a vintage dress ready for the parade, getting your vintage *car* ready for the parade, or been busy with one or more special anniversary projects.

One member who was busy getting things in order that year was Don Meyer. Don was an Elder that year (along with Terry Christensen and three other gentlemen). Don's wife Gayleen (Neuhaus) Meyer was busy getting special organ and choir music together, enjoying an organ and piano that were brand-new to the church.

A few years after this anniversary, Elder Don answered the Lord's calling to become a minister, and in 1997 Don Meyer returned to Zion as **Pastor** Meyer at his ordination into the Office of the Holy Ministry. Rev. Meyer will return again on February 26-27, 2011 to deliver the Word of the Lord to us in the sermons in each service. After each service, there will be a reception to catch up with old friendships and to make new ones.

Don will be the first of several "Sons of the Congregation" to return to share with us how the Lord has been using them in different situations to minister to His people. It is our hope that these Sons of Zion will encourage, enlighten, and strengthen the desire of our members to support and possibly participate in some manner of full-time ministry in the church.

+ *Chamber Choir 2/27/2011* +

A special musical gift at the 10:30 service on February 27 will be the Concordia University Nebraska Chamber Choir under the direction of Kurt VonKampen. The University Chamber Choir was formed in the fall of 1998 and has gained a reputation for excellence in the singing of vocal chamber music. The 16-voice choir has traveled extensively throughout the United States, and will have just completed a six-stop east coast tour.

Please join us, and invite others to join you at these special services and receptions!

Pastor Schmitt's *Top Ten List*

Thanks to Brent Pfeiffer, Zion has entered into a new era of telecommunications with COX phone and internet service. As a result of this changeover, there is a new number for the parsonage (long story): **402-884-3239**.

As we lay to rest the old number, it's fun to remember the **Top Ten Phone Calls I Could Have Done Without:**

10. *Most calls that began, "Pastor, this is John Reichmuth..." (sometimes John calls me for other things than funerals!)*
9. *A particularly spectacular wrong number call on December 7 one year. . . I hope whoever was on the other end didn't have called ID to see who it was bad-mouthing the Japanese.*
8. *"Hello, Elkhorn Animal Clinic, I need to bring my dog Moses in one more time..."*
7. *Calling for Mary on her first day of training at Curves: September 11, 2001, 8:30 AM.*
6. *Every call beginning with "This is an automated call. Please stay on the line for an important message..."*
5. *The "We're closing your road next week" call from last year. And, while we're at it, the upcoming "We're closing your road next week" call coming up this spring/summer!*
4. *Many calls from beloved parishioners beginning, "My company is moving me to..."*
3. *"This is the IRS, and we're proposing the following changes to your returns from last year." OK, so that was a letter, but can you imagine getting THAT call?*
2. *Any call where there's just silence on the other end, then after several seconds, a click.*

And the Number One Phone Call I Could Have Done Without:

1. *Christmas Day, 1998, 3:00 AM: "This is Security Equipment. We've got a motion sensor alarm at the church." Even worse was walking through the church wondering what happened and who might be waiting. Turns out someone had hung a cardboard star right in front of the sensor, then the heat kicked on...*

Student Ministry

High School Lock-In/Out

Feb 18-19 7 PM - 7 AM

\$15



All high school youth and their friends are invited to a night of fun, fellowship, and Bible study. We will be at Zion and several area places (we will pick soon).

RSVP and \$15 due by Sun, Feb 13.

Family Fun Game Nite

Sunday—Feb 27

4-6 PM

Families of ALL ages are invited to an evening of games, food, and fellowship. We will be meeting in the basement fellowship hall. Please bring your favorite game and a potluck dish.



HIGH SCHOOL

Sun, Feb 6	NO YOUTH GROUP
Sun, Feb 13	Youth Group
Feb 18-19	High School Lock In/Out
Feb 20	NO YOUTH GROUP
Feb 27	Family Game Nite (4-6 PM)
Mar 6	Youth Group
Mar 13	Youth Group
Mar 20	Laser Tag
Mar 27	Youth Group
Apr 3	Fundraiser Dinner
July 17-22	Servant Event to Idaho
Nov 18-20	NE High School Gathering



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 26-30

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Feb 27	Family Game Nite
Mar 18-19	City Wide Lock-In/Out
Apr 3	Fundraiser Dinner
May 6	Confirmation Public Questioning
May 8	Rite of Confirmation
July 17-22	Servant Event to Idaho

Middle School City Wide Lock In/Out

March 18-19 7 PM - 6 AM

\$25

All 6th—8th grade youth and their friends are invited to a city wide Lutheran Lock-In/Out at St. Mark Lutheran Church. Throughout the night we will have a Bible study, meet new friends, hear a great live band, watch a movie, play games, and go to a couple places in Omaha. We will meet at Zion to leave.

More details coming soon!

Adults are needed and loved, come for FREE.



INSTALLATION—OFFICERS AND BOARDS

New and carry-over officers and board members will be installed into their respective offices at all services February 5 & 6. Our thanks to all whose terms are closing and all to whom their torches are passed.

2011 OFFERING ENVELOPES

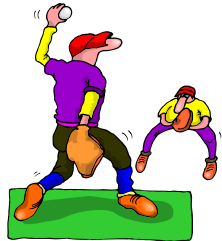
Those of you who have picked up your offering envelopes for 2011 may have noticed a new look. They are now addressed for easy mailing. There is also a security area under the flap useful for designating how your contributions are to be allocated. It is very helpful to the Board of Stewardship when this information is completed.

If you have not yet picked up your envelopes, you are encouraged to do so as soon as possible. This will save postage and gas expense as those that are not picked up will need to be mailed or delivered. The envelopes are on the table in the narthex. Thank you.

~ Board of Stewardship ~

Co-Ed or Men's Softball

Interested in playing Co-Ed or Men's Softball? Sign up on the bulletin board or see Andrea. The cost is typically around \$30-45. The season starts mid April and runs through mid August. The games are night games; the night of the week is yet to be determined—give us your preference. All games are played at Kelley fields.



Coffee and Donuts

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

Thank you to the Lydia Circle and Barb McDonald for providing these treats in December and January.

~Board of Fellowship~

Special Worship Times—LENT & EASTER

March 9, Ash Wednesday	4:30 & 7:00 PM
Mar. 16, Midweek Service	4:30 & 7:00 PM
Mar. 23, Midweek Service	4:30 & 7:00 PM
Mar. 30, Midweek Service	4:30 & 7:00 PM
Apr. 6, Midweek Service	4:30 & 7:00 PM
Apr. 13, Midweek Service	4:30 & 7:00 PM
<i>Dinner served 5:15—7:00 PM (above dates)</i>	

April 21, Maundy Thursday	4:30 & 7:00 PM
April 22, Good Friday	1:00 & 7:00 PM
April 23, Easter Vigil	6:00 PM
April 24, Easter Sunday	8:00, 10:30 AM

School News

REGISTRATION TIME AT CONCORDIA

Choose an education for your child or teenager that is refreshingly personal, academically rigorous and seriously Christian! Concordia Academy gives students in kindergarten through 6th grade a firm foundation. Concordia Jr.-Sr. High offers an outstanding college-prep education. Both schools offer great opportunities in athletics and fine arts. Registration opens January 24! Register by February 18 and receive a discount. Call 592-8005 (elementary), 445-4000 (Jr.-Sr. high) or visit our website at www.concordiaomaha.org.

CONCORDIA HIRING COACHES

Concordia High School in Omaha is accepting applications for the following positions: **head coach, girls' varsity soccer** (spring 2011 season) and **head coach, varsity football** (fall 2011 Season). Experience at the high school and/or club level and a strong Christian commitment are desired. Send resume to Steve Zehnder, Activities Director, at zehnders@concordiaomaha.org, or call 402-445-4000.

MT. CALVARY

Mt. Calvary Lutheran School Board of Christian Education invites you to check out our Christian Day School on February 13. Please join us for a Spaghetti Dinner beginning at 11:30am (free will offering will be taken). We will also have an Open House! There will be tours of our facilities beginning at noon and we will have teachers, parents, students and former students available to answer any questions you may have about our school. Please join us for a great day at Mt. Calvary, 5529 Leavenworth Street.

PROJECT HOPE

Zion's donations for Project Hope started on the low side but have since picked up. Through Jan. 16 we have collected 123 food items including many boxes of cereal and cans of soup. At this date, the featured items for February and March have not been released. As soon as this information becomes available, it will be put in the bulletin.

The items that are absolutely needed to fill a client's bag each week are canned vegetables, canned soup, crackers, cereal, pasta, tomato sauce or spaghetti sauce and canned fruit. Keep these items in mind when watching for sales.

Thank you to all who continue to donate to this mission. Project Hope finds more and more people needing their assistance.

Kathy Rummel
Project Hope Food Coordinator

OPEN DOOR MISSION / PROJECT HOPE TREE

Your donation of caps, mittens, gloves, and scarves continues to "decorate" the tree in the narthex. A delivery of these items to the above named organizations will be made soon as the tree is quite full once again. Since the cold weather and snow continues, we also will continue to collect these items through at least the end of February. Watch for sales right now as stores are now putting out the spring merchandise and want to clear the winter items.

Deliveries of these items will be made as warranted.

FEED THE BODY, FEED THE SOUL

The Feed the Body/Feed the Soul tree in the narthex has the last of the envelopes for the approximately 50 books remaining to be donated to Project Hope. Except for the Easter books, which will be handed out closer to Easter, the children's books are now being included in the Birthday Bags given to children who have birthdays as a special gift.

This has been a very successful effort and Project Hope has been very happy that we could donate these Christ-centered books for them to give out to children who might not otherwise hear of God's love and His plan of salvation.

Please watch the bulletin in the future, as we will be asking for some feedback on continuing this effort again. To make this effort economical, we need to take advantage of the Concordia Publishing House Warehouse sale which is held in the fall. Therefore, your opinion in the near future will give an idea as to whether to continue this effort.

POP CAN TABS

Recently 3,156 tabs were delivered to the Ronald McDonald House. That now brings the "Thanks a Million" total to 94,609 tabs.

How can you help? Just save the tabs from all beverage cans, bring them to the Lakeview Room and put them on the east counter by the miniature Ronald McDonald House.

Why does the Ronald McDonald House need our tabs? They are recycled, that is turned in to a recycling center for cash which then helps the Ronald McDonald House with some of their funding. Remember, the Ronald McDonald House becomes "home" to families of very seriously ill children that are hospitalized here in Omaha.

This is just a very small and simple way to help them.

CARD COUNTER

The Card Counter located in the narthex now has Valentine Cards and napkins available. The cards are only \$.50 each and napkins are also reasonably priced.

In March we will have Easter cards and Confirmation cards available.

At a date in the near future, a "clearance" type sale will be held at the card counter. Watch the bulletin for details on that.

As always, we have birthday, get well, sympathy, wedding, new baby, anniversary, and thinking of you cards as well as blank note cards. Please feel free to stop by and browse.

If you have any questions or have any special needs, please feel free to contact Kathy.