



The Zion Bell

June-July, 2011

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“See, I lay a stone in Zion...

... a chosen and precious cornerstone.” -

Isaiah 28:16

Zion has a new logo for her 125th Anniversary, pictured above. Notice what allows the crane in the picture to “Lift High the Cross:” That’s not just a metal frame, it’s the letters “YHWH.” This is the Old Testament name for the Lord. His work throughout time has been built on the cross—the saving action of His Son Jesus Christ for us. That is the foundation on which we build, and the foundation on which God builds *US* into *HIS* church.

We’re having a great time celebrating our anniversary. Already Rev. Don Meyer shared with us how the Lord built him into the church in a very special way through folks at Zion “without even knowing it.” As this is being written, Rev. Daniel Deardoff is preparing to share with us regarding the home he has at Zion even as the Lord uses him in South Dakota. The rest of those former members of Zion who now serve in the Pastoral Ministry will be visiting us later this year (as well as the District President of our Nebraska District LCMS):

**June 25-26, Rev. Robert Deardoff,
 North Platte, NE**

**July 23-24, Rev. Wesley Reimnitz,
 Springfield, IL**

**August 27-28, Rev. Russell Sommerfeld,
 Seward, NE**

**September 24-25, Rev. Ronald Holling,
 Omaha, NE**

(Speakers are slated to speak at ALL services on both Saturday and Sunday each weekend listed above.)

While we enjoy hearing from these brothers in the ministry and while we are having fun looking back at the truly unique history of this parish, we cannot help but see the Lord’s hand at work in us. When Rev. Scott Schmieding spoke to us, could anyone that was there deny the work of the Lord in his life, bringing back his ability to preach even after losing his tongue to cancer? When we hear the stories of how the earliest members of Zion Lutheran Church survived and thrived during the perilous days pioneer settlement, WWI, the Great Depression and such periods of history, we can look back and say, “Surely God was with them.”

But what about today? “*Each day has enough trouble of its own,*” Jesus says. What troubles you this day? Finances? Relationships? Health? How are your foundations being rocked? One of the terrifying things about being in an earthquake is that there is nowhere to go where things aren’t shaking. But in Christ, we have just such a place: Our Rock of Ages is a firm foundation on which we may always rest. “*When ev’ry earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.*”

We’re not that far removed from Zion’s last building project to remember what care went into the foundations of the structure we now enjoy. Remember, then, also the care with which our Father in Heaven has laid for you a foundation for your faith that will never decay—not in 125 years, not even in eternity!



Thomas Schmitt—1991

1991-2011 Celebrate Pastor Schmitt's Twentieth Anniversary of Ordination June 26

Come enjoy a potluck dinner following the 10:30 service on Sunday, June 26 to “**Remember When**” with Pastor Schmitt.

He was ordained into the Pastoral Ministry June 23, 1991 in Willow City, North Dakota and served a dual parish in Willow City and Rugby for six years before coming to Zion in 1997. We all know he has lots of stories, for he can't seem to stop telling them from the pulpit. We're not even sure how many of those “*Lake Beaugard*” and “*Flat Platte*” stories are true to life or just made up.

Now we're looking for your help in sharing your stories. What kinds of stories do you have about Pastor Schmitt? We're looking for funny stories, touching stories, interesting stories—any kind of story that would make a good book for him. Type them up and send them in before June 26. There will be a box for collecting them in the Narthex, or you may email them to:

zionwest2@msn.com.

(Pat's email—make sure to get the “2” in there.)
We'll assemble them together into a memory book for Pastor, a gift of increasing significance for him as the years go by and his memory goes away.

The potluck will be in the Fellowship Hall and Patio area on the lower level of the church. Come, have fun, and take a turn to stand up and tell a story even if you haven't written it down first.

As a great bonus, we'll also have the Rev. Robert Deardoff of NORTH Platte, (*Flat Platte's sister city*) Nebraska preaching to us that day. If you have a story involving Bob, bring it, too!

Pastor Schmitt's Top Ten List

Having the Rev. Schmieding here on May 1 brought back many memories of sitting in classes at Concordia-St. Louis Seminary. What a place! What history! What magnificent stones! I worked there briefly as a security guard (*take a look at the picture on the left—would THAT face intimidate you if you were up to no good?*) and as a waiter (*much more my speed*), but the job I wanted more than any was that of tour guide. Set me loose with a tour group and the master key and look out! No 10-minute, walk around the outside, read from the script, then sit in the quad and listen to the bells tour here! Why, if I ran the tour, here's what you'd see:

10. *The steam tunnels under all the buildings, complete with dirt floors and scurrying roaches!*
9. *The sub-level of the kitchen with creepy, smelly old meat lockers! (they're being torn out as we speak in a major, long-overdue remodeling of the foodservice facilities.)*
8. *The narrow, winding staircase leading to the brightest room on campus—the room below the bell tower— a beautiful space with no apparent purpose.*
7. *The hallway on the top level of the administration wing that goes up a few stairs, levels out, then goes down a few stairs for no apparent reason.*
6. *The dorms with quaint titles such as “LAVATORY” or “RUBBISH LOCKER” painted on the doors, but with all 21st Century conveniences in each room.*
5. *The stained-glass windows that aren't really. Someone (guess who?) liked to play with transparent paint and those cool window outlines on the upper level. Paint was still there, last I checked!*
4. *The 9'X10' room I called home my second year. Judged too small for anyone to use as a regular dorm room these days, it's now a “Study Room.”*
3. *We'd spend a few minutes at my favorite spot on campus: under the bell tower with its rib vaults of colorful sandstone, leaning on the stone railing carved with all kinds of symbols looking out over the vines and hostas growing under the towering oaks into the quad with the great tall windows of the chapel/auditorium on one side, the fanciful board room windows on the other, and history all around.*
2. *We'd have to leave campus, but the Lutheran History tour of St. Louis is fascinating!*
1. *If you're up to it, we'll climb the tiny spiral stairway to the bell tower at the top of the hour for an unforgettable view of the city and a ringing in your ears that just won't quit!*

125 ANNIVERSARY T-SHIRTS & HATS

In the next couple weeks we will be taking pre-orders for T-shirts and hats with the Zion 125th anniversary logo on them. More info coming soon.

Summer Sunday School Teachers Needed

Volunteers are needed to teach for Summer Sunday School. Teach one week, teach one month, teach all summer, it's up to you. Classes are PK2-K & 1st-4th Grade. Contact Andrea to see how you can help (402-493-1744).

Note from the Balcony

Many, many thanks to all the musicians who shared their talents and helped make our Lenten and Easter services so meaningful and beautiful! A special round of thanks to the choir and director, Pastor Steve Bartelt, who all gave so much time and energy during this time. A huge thank-you also goes to these individuals who played instruments or sang (or both): Katie Elder, Sarah Lindau, Sue Pearson, Danielle Rayman, Ryan Smelser, and Vicky Vandervort. God bless you all! ~Lynne Eifert

Save the Date! Family Fun Day Sunday, July 24

A Family Fun day is being planned. What we can tell you is it will be Sunday, July 24 & it will involve water! More details to follow.



IT'S A JUNGLE IN HERE!

Grab a vine, brave the rapids, and prepare for a BIG JUNGLE ADVENTURE! Volunteers won't want to miss a minute of this big adventure where you can go wild for Jesus!

Volunteers are needed to help show children Jesus' amazing love for them all day, every day. Volunteer today by either signing up in the narthex or calling the church office (402-493-1744).



Picture Directory



As part of our 125th Anniversary celebration, we want to publish a new Picture Directory for the church. We have chosen Olan Mills to be our partner in this endeavor. With the Olan Mills program, each family photographed will receive:

- One directory for each family photographed (or single if no family)
- \$25 towards a portrait package for each family photographed
- Online directory access

The church will receive \$2 for each family photographed (fundraiser) and a 30% overprint to give new members when they join the church, plus have access to the online directory for three years or more to keep updating and downloading.

Photos will be taken

Tues, June 28 th - Fri. July 1 st	2 - 9:30 PM
Tues, July 19 th - Fri July 22 nd	2 - 9:30 PM
Sat, July 23 rd	9:30 AM - 5:10 PM

Appointments

Starting May 29th photo appointments can be made in three ways:

- At the church on Sunday mornings
- Online using the web-site <http://signup.olanmills.com>
- Call the Olan Mills appointment line, 1-800-866-2263

We encourage everyone to participate; after all, the directory won't be complete without you in it.

If you have any questions, please contact Jean Wilshusen.

Student Ministry

HIGH SCHOOL

May 29	No Youth Group - Memorial Day
June 3-4	Camping at Camp Luther
June 5	No Youth Group
June 6	Float Building
June 12	Snowball Fight
June 18	Bennington Daze Parade
June 19	No Youth Group - Father's Day
June 26-30	VBS
July 3	No Youth Group - 4th of July
July 10	Water Fun
July 17-22	Servant Event to Idaho
July 24	Family Fun Event
Aug 6	Worlds of Fun
Aug 7	No Youth Group
Aug 14	Pizza & Cookies
Aug 21	Ultimate Frisbee
Aug 28	Capture the Flag & Sardines
Sept 24	Oktoberfest
Nov 18-20	NE High School Gathering

MIDDLE SCHOOL

June 5	Summer Confirmation - Cults
June 6	Float Building
June 18	Bennington Daze Parade
June 26-30	VBS
July 17	Summer Confirmation - Baptism
July 17-22	Servant Event to Idaho
July 24	Family Fun Water Event

SUMMER CONFIRMATION CLASSES

SUNDAYS @ 9:15 AM

World Religions & Cults

June 5, 12, 19, 26 & July 10

Baptism

July 17, 24, 31, August 7 & 14



CAMPING AT CAMP LUTHER

JUNE 3-4, FOR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH & THEIR FAMILIES

Join us for a day of camping at Camp Luther in Schuyler, NE. Each person/family is responsible for their own tent and food. You don't have to bring your family in order to come. **You must RSVP by Wednesday, May 25.** Needed: \$5 & Permission Slips.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



JUNE 26-30

6-8 PM

FREE!

Dinner @ 5 for the entire family

Sunday - Ravioli

Monday - Maid Rite Sandwiches

Tuesday - Hamburgers/Hotdogs

Wednesday - Tacos

Thursday - Pizza

BRING YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS!

BENNINGTON DAZE PARADE

Zion is entering a float in the Bennington Daze Parade to celebrate our 125th anniversary. The Youth are going to build & paint it. On the day of the parade the Youth will ride the float and hand out "goodies".

Float Building & Decorating

Monday, June 6 @ 10 AM

Help build and decorate the float out at the Kruse's property. Free lunch to those who help. Need a ride or directions? Let Andrea know.

Parade

Saturday, June 18 @ 12:30 PM

Meet Andrea at Cubby's in Bennington. From there we will walk to where our float will be parked.





PROJECT HOPE

The Feinstein Challenge ended the end of April and Zion contributed 3,390 food items as well as \$65. I am still awaiting word if Zion was the church that contributed the most. We started out weak but the members of Zion really came through the last several weeks of April. Also a big Thank You to Mary Schmitt and Curves as their donations really helped to put us in the lead.

With schools out for the summer, Project Hope needs our help more than ever as the children do not have the support of school meal programs. Please keep this in mind when making your donations.

We are finishing May's featured items of personal care. June's featured items are canned vegetables, baked beans, and baby food. July's featured items are cereal and crackers and August is tomato products and soup.

As always, personal care items are always appreciated especially shampoo and dish soap.

Thank you to all who continue to support this mission effort in these difficult times. If you can only donated one item, that too is greatly appreciated.

Kathy Rummel
Project Hope Food Coordinator

POP CAN TABS

Please remember to save the tabs off any pop cans and bring them to the Lakeview Room and put them on the east counter by the miniature Ronald McDonald House. All collected tabs are delivered to the Ronald McDonald House and they in turn recycle them for funds that are used for the Ronald McDonald House.

We are part of the "Thanks a Million" effort and we currently have donated 113,658 tabs. Our goal is to reach 150,000 this year. Perhaps you could ask family and friends to save tabs also. Our recycling the tabs helps the Ronald McDonald House to recycle for the benefit of their guests.

CARD COUNTER

Please feel free to stop by the Card Counter in the Narthex for your greeting card needs. A planned "clearance sale" has been postponed. When the sale is rescheduled it will be put in the bulletin.

Rebekah Circle News

On April 26th nine Rebekah members met in the Lakeview Room. Marilyn opened the meeting with devotions called Jesus Paid the Price. Mites were then collected and we joined in the Mite Prayer.

Judy shared information about Rida Rishmawi and his olive art collection. He had visited the church in New Braunfels and told about how his family in Bethlehem had made items out of olive wood for many years. She showed us a beautiful cross made of olive wood.

Judy reported that she had sent a get well card to Rev. Rod Meske, a thinking of you card to Randy Froehlich and sympathy cards to Mr. & Mrs. Don Lang and Mr. & Mrs. Matt Wullenwaber and family. She also read correspondence including thank you notes from Project Hope and Rob Scebold.

Judy and others from the circles had attended the Tri Zone Workshop. She said that Paul Muther, a Vicar from Gretna, was the speaker and he showed slides from his trips to India. The collection that day went to the India Mission. She also reported that the National Convention in Peoria, Illinois will be in June. We discussed the Gifts from the Heart and the offerings for the convention. We will send \$50 for each offering and members will bring our Gifts from the Heart to the meeting in May.

The date for the June meeting will be changed from the 28th to the 21st due to Vacation Bible School. There is also a conflict with the date of our September meeting and it will be changed from the 17th to the 18th. We also chose July 6th at 1:00 P.M. to meet in the downstairs kitchen to do some cleaning.

The May birthday meeting will be at Vincenzo's at 6:30. We will meet there on the 24th. The meeting then adjourned. We always welcome guests to any of our meetings. Please call me for more information.

Carol Scebold, Secretary

Lydia Circle News

We met on March 26th, opening with a "Mite Box Devotion Prayer" and singing "We Give You but Your Own". Eight members and Pastor were present.

The minutes and treasurer's reports were accepted as read. Items were still being gathered for the Feinstein Challenge. Canned fruits and macaroni & cheese are being collected for April. Thank-you notes were read from the Dunn family for serving Jolene's funeral lunch.

Shirley Lang contacted Lynn Soloway, asking her to be our speaker at our September joint meeting. She has accepted to do this.

There was discussion on where we could send donations and will be discussed again at a later date.

Pastor led us in "Five Letter Trivia". We then closed with the Lord's Prayer and the Table Prayer.

Shirley then served refreshments she picked up from Rudy as Rudy was ill today. Thank you Shirley!

Our April 28th meeting opened with a letter to all from our friend Jesus, titled "Because I Love You."

The secretary's and treasurer's reports were accepted as read. Thank you Lois for filling in for Connie.

A thank-you note was read from Project Hope for all the items received the past 3 months. A nice letter and thank-you was received from Dallas Dubke for our monetary support.

"Gifts from the Heart" are being gathered for our National Convention in June in Peoria, Ill. We will send one kit with Lisa Stirtz to take to the convention. We will all bring a kit of our choice to our May birthday party that we will donate to a local charity. We will also send \$25 for each of the four offerings at the convention.

The LWML retreat is Sept. 17th at Camp Luther in Schuyler, NE. Several of our ladies are hoping to attend.

We served doughnuts between services on May 8th. The proceeds go to Mite offerings for our Mission Projects. Thank you Joan for getting those for us.

Lois and Joan volunteered to be our hostesses for our May Birthday Party on May 26th.

Our program was "Ask the Pastor". There were interesting questions and discussion.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer and the table prayer and enjoyed a delicious dessert, nuts, candy and coffee provided by Toni Luethge. Anyone is always welcome to come and visit.

Secretary, Aleta Neuhaus