

# The Zion Bell

## November, 2006

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

## God Gives the Most

In this month of Thanksgiving, we invite you to embark with us on a wonderful journey of self-exploration. We invite you to take this time of reflection to focus on the glorious giving of our God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We invite you to respond to God's giving with giving of your own. We want you to give until it hurts (literally!) and discover that we simply cannot out-give God.

"God Gives the Most" is the theme of our fall stewardship campaign. In this campaign we will first and foremost focus on the giving God has already done. In order to do this, we ask that all members give of their time to attend Bible Class, Worship, and fellowship offerings of the congregation. In these offerings, we will take time to explain the Biblical concept of "FIRSTFRUITS" giving. To use a church-sign-worthy blurb, FIRSTFRUITS giving means, "Give God what's right, not what's left."

All too often that's how the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh will tempt us to think about giving to "the church." We are tempted to think, "Well, how much can I give this month after that vacation tapped us out?" "You know, \$3 gas really took a bite out of our spending this year. Something's got to give. I'll make it up to the Lord later, but this month my money's going to Cubby's." Or even "Holy cow! Look at the budget deficit! I'd better give more!" NONE of these patterns of giving are FIRSTFRUITS giving patterns. FIRSTFRUITS giving is bringing the top portion of what God has given to us back to God in praise and thanksgiving. In the Bible (Exodus 23 and following) God talks about bringing the FIRSTFRUITS of the field to the Lord in the harvest festival. Throughout the Old Testament, people were commended for bringing the FIRSTFRUITS of the land to the Lord and sharing these gifts *"of their grain, new wine, oil and honey and all that the fields produced."* 2 Chronicles 31:5

Then, in the New Testament, we see how the sacrifices of the FIRSTFRUITS were completed. After all, are not the sacrifices of the Old Testament shadows of the true sacrifice to come? So Christ is indeed the fulfillment of the FIRSTFRUITS sacrifice as well: *But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the FIRSTFRUITS of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the FIRSTFRUITS; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.* 1 Corinthians 15:20-23

Finally, guess what?! YOU AND I are now FIRSTFRUITS through Jesus Christ! That's right—you and I and all God's chosen people through Christ Jesus are His own FIRSTFRUITS! You can be certain that He's looking forward to receiving us into His house in heaven above as much as His children on earth below have looked forward to receiving the gifts of "grain, new wine, oil and honey" at their proper times. *These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they kept themselves pure. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among men and offered as FIRSTFRUITS to God and the Lamb.* Revelation 14:4

Now, as God's chosen and best, let us live like it! Let us be His salt and light in the world! Let us give without worry and with confidence that God will replenish all that we give away. Did I mention "Giving 'til it hurts?" We're having a BLOOD DRIVE as part of our giving campaign. Just think—you give of your own blood to someone else who needs it, and God replenishes you ever so quickly. You give of the life God gave you, and God restores it fully. What a graphic way to reflect the gift of Christ on the cross for us! God Gives the Most! Let us live accordingly.

## Pastor Schmitt's Top Ten List

Well, it's been a quiet week in Lake Beaugard, my home town... Not really. But I did visit a couple small towns this past month, and came away with some "I've been in the city too long now" moments. Here are some "You know your town's small if..." observations from my recent travels:

10. *Your church doesn't really need parking because everyone in town can walk there.*
  9. *Stoplights? We don't need no stinkin' stoplights!*
  8. *You have to kick the sugar beets out of the way to get into the local gas station/convenience store.*
  7. *Forget your invitation to the wedding? Just drive by the first person you see and ask, "Where's so-and-so getting married tonight?"*
  6. *World Series game gets pre-empted on the radio by the local football team's coverage.*
  5. *"Friday Night Lights" are about the only lights on in town.*
  4. *You have to allow extra time for shopping—not for standing in line, but for talking with the clerks until the next shopper comes along!*
  3. *You wander the "Mall" just for walking, but you have to make 48 laps (all one level) for a mile.*
  2. *The "Mall" doesn't go through. (Still haven't figured that one out.)*
- And the number one sign you're in a small town:*
1. *"Lose the tie, city boy!"*

## UPCOMING STEWARDSHIP FUN:

*In the spirit of giving during Advent and Christmas, and in conjunction with our "God Gives the Most" Stewardship campaign, there will be some fun fellowship opportunities during our Midweek Service times.*

*Details are still being hammered out, but take time to make time to enjoy some special events Wednesday evenings in December!!!*

## Blood Drive November 18

On any given day, more than 38,000 blood donations are needed for patients throughout the United States. Healthy donors are needed on a daily basis to ensure the Red Cross provides the blood that could give a person another chance at life. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, and in accordance with our "FIRSTFRUITS" giving emphasis, we are asking our members to consider giving blood this month AT ZION!

Although many people think blood is needed only in emergency situations, blood transfusions are a way of life for thousands of Americans. The people who suffer from cancer or sickle cell disease, the liver, kidney and hear transplant recipients, and the mothers and newborns who have gone through a difficult birth all rely on generous blood donors to get them through. Giving the gift of life is one of the most selfless acts you can do today or any day of the year!

"You'll realize the power of your blood donation. Your one simple gesture will touch not just the people you may help save, but their grateful loved ones as well," says Lisa Kustka, director of manufacturing. "Blood recipients look forward to the same things you do around the holidays—sharing good times and good health with friends and family. The only difference is they need blood donors like you to make their dreams a reality."

The blood supply is particularly vulnerable throughout the holiday season because it becomes difficult for donors to find the time to give blood. Giving blood now can help build the supply throughout the season, ensuring enough is on hand for patients in the weeks to come.

So join us November 18, 2006 in Zion's beautiful Lakeview Room. You may sign up at church, visit [givebloodgivelife.org](http://givebloodgivelife.org) or call 1-800-448-3543 to make an appointment.

*A blood donor's card or driver's license, or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Donors must be at least 17 years of age, and must weigh at least 110 pounds.*



## UNO Football 6th – 12th Grade

Saturday, November 11  
12 PM  
\$5

RSVP by Sunday, November 5th



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

The cost is \$5 for you ticket plus whatever else you might need. RSVP by Sunday, November 5th so that we have enough transportation.



## Middle School & High School Help Needed!

6th—12th graders and their parents are needed for help on the Spaghetti Feed. Sign up as a family for a 2 hour shift.

There will be a work day on October 28 at 10 AM in the church basement to make meatballs and sauce. Please bring a small ice cream scoop.



## Upcoming Events

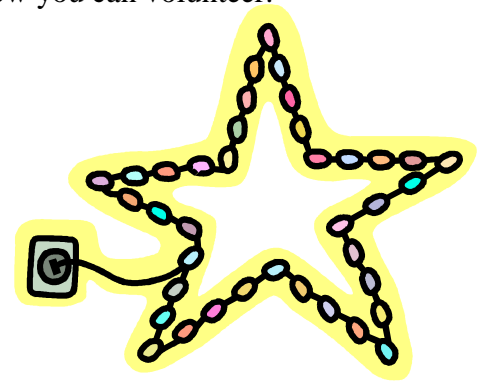
- November 5 Spaghetti Feed 6-12 grade
- November 11 UNO Football game 6-12 grade
- December 2, 9, 16 Christmas Service Rehearsal
- December 17 Christmas Caroling 6-12 grade
- December 23 Children’s Christmas Service

## Star of Love Children’s Christmas Service

Christmas is soon approaching, which means it is almost time for the Children’s Christmas Service. Practice will be held on Saturdays in December at 1:00 PM in the church.

Children of all ages are invited to participate.

Parents are also needed for crowd control, costumes, props, sound, and music. Call the church office to see how you can volunteer.



## Bible Buddies

Wednesday  
5:30-6:35 PM  
PK4 - 5th Grade

What Bible Buddies has in store for you! Prizes, lots of new friends, fun activities, and a great way to learn the Bible. Join the fun at Bible Buddies!

Christmas Break: Nov 22 - Jan 3

# Mothers of Young Children

**Saturday, November 4th  
10 AM  
Upper MPR Room**

All mothers with young children are invited to join us as we start a new group at Zion. This group will



allow a time for mothers to socialize and have a Bible Study with other mothers, while their children play together. The first meeting will establish the day, time, frequency, format, and activities of this group. See you there!

## 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 Rebekah and Lydia Circles and the Board of Discipleship for providing these treats for us for the month of October.

~Board of Fellowship~



## Spaghetti Feed

**Sunday, November 5th  
11 AM—7 PM**

The Spaghetti Feed is back! This year the event is sponsored by ZIGGY. Plan to attend on Sunday, November 5 between the hours of 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM. You will be dining on spaghetti with two different homemade sauces, meatballs, bread sticks and ice cream. Advance tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for children 6-12 years old. Invite your neighbors & friends.

## LAY READER ORIENTATION

Have you considered reading the Scripture lessons for worship services but have concerns that you may not know what to do or how to do it? Are you willing but afraid of getting a passage that has difficult names to pronounce? A brief group orientation with the opportunity to go to the lectern and try out the microphone, see the lectionary, get a look at the church from that viewpoint is being offered. In a few short weeks, the church year will end and a sign-up sheet will be posted. If you would like an orientation, please call Vicky Vandervort. November 11 is proposed as the date, but is not 'set in stone'.

## MOUNT CALVARY Annual Turkey Dinner

It's time again for Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church's Annual Turkey Dinner on November 12 from 12:00—4:30 PM. This is our 25th year! Come and enjoy food and fellowship with your friends and neighbors. You'll find it easier to enter our facilities now that God has blessed us with an elevator. The menu includes: Turkey, Dressing, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Corn, Green Beans, Dinner Roll, Beverage and Desserts. Tickets will be available at the door. Adults \$7.50, Children 5-12 \$3.50, Children 4 and under free.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS AWESOME  
THANKSGIVING FEAST!

Concordia Theater Department Presents

**“YOU CAN’T BE TOO CAREFUL”**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH**

**6:00 PM**

**And**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH**

**6:00 PM**

**At**

**Concordia Lutheran High School**

**15656 Fort St., Omaha, NE**

**Ticket Cost: \$5**

**Available through cast member or at door**

**A spaghetti meal and desserts will be available at show for additional costs**

Produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc., Englewood, Colorado.

**Little Lamb Preschool**

Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

15005 Q Street

Omaha, NE 68137

Preschool teacher—This is a part-time position requiring a teaching degree and early childhood endorsement. Hours are Tuesday/Thursday/Friday 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Call the Divine Shepherd church office at 895-1500 for an application or email [littlelamb@divineshepherd.org](mailto:littlelamb@divineshepherd.org)

**CONCORDIA**

**BOYS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL**

The boys high school basketball program is looking for a reserve coach for the upcoming season (06-07). Responsibilities would include attending JV practice, coaching reserve games, and encouraging young players to develop their basketball talents. If you have any interest, please contact Steve Zehnder, Activities Director, at 445-4000, or email him at [zehnders@wolsa.org](mailto:zehnders@wolsa.org).

**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 17, 2006. 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 12 at 2:00 p.m. and Tuesday, November 21 at 7:00 p.m. 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, February 24, 2007 at 8:00 a.m.

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

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.

**DivorceCare**

Active Omaha Support Groups

If you or someone you know is hurting because of separation or divorce, then DivorceCare is here for you. There are 13 topics, such as loneliness, anger, financial survival, new relationships and depression to name a few that are covered in 13 weeks. You are welcome to begin attending on any week. Each session is “self-contained” and you can continue through the next 13-week cycle to view any of the topics you have not seen. For more information visit [www.divorcecare.org](http://www.divorcecare.org). Brochures are available on the bulletin board in the narthex at Zion.

**Sunday**

Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

Southwest Church of Christ

**Monday**

St. Andrews UMC

**Tuesday**

Rejoice Lutheran Church

DC4K (DivorceCare for Kids)

**Wednesday**

Celebration Covenant

**Thursday**

Bethany Lutheran

Westside Church

Glad Tidings



## LYDIA CIRCLE NEWS

The annual joint meeting of the Lydia and Rebekah LWML was held on Sept. 24th at 1:30. The meeting was called to order by Eunice Neuhaus, and Pastor Schmitt led us in prayer.

A video presentation of Lutheran Hour Ministries Global Care Packages for Vietnam was viewed.

Secretary and Treasurer's reports were given by each Circle and were approved and accepted as read. The Sunshine Committee sent no cards the past month.

Our order of Bibles to be used in Sunday School and Bible Buddies is back ordered.

The Strategic Planning Ministry meetings in September were cancelled, as were our serving assignments for those meetings.

Project Hope emphasis for October is for donations of pumpkins and squash. November will be Thanksgiving dinner foods and December will be soups and stews. It was decided to have a cap, scarf and mitten tree to use before Christmas. Toys will also be gathered by both Circles before December 14th.

Gift tags on the Uruguay tree are all gone so the boxes can be filled and sent. Pages for personal messages and description of a typical day in our lives were handed out, which will then be included in the boxes.

Five members of the Rebekah and Lydia Circles went to Immanuel, Louisville for the Fall LWML Rally on October 1. We were treated to refreshments, and a choice of a Satin Hand Washing or a Prayer Walk. Jim and Edna Moll, missionaries, presented a slide show of their trip to Indonesia entitled, "Going to the Other Side", taken from Mark 4:35, where Jesus said to His disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." The Molls traveled to the other side of the world, Indonesia, visiting schools where the need for teachers is very great. They also observed much of the devastation still left from the tsunami.

Volunteers served coffee cakes after the 8:00 and 10:30 services on our LWML Sunday, also on October 1st.

Bazaar committees were chosen as follows: Overall Chairwomen are Patty Sass and Judy Treadway; Kitchen, Aleta Neuhaus and Donna Goldapp; Dining Room, Ann Neuhaus and LaDonna Clevenger; Sales, Lois Costar and Boni Aulwurm. The bazaar is November 4th. Look for posters and advertising on this event. Anyone is welcome to donate and to come and shop and eat lunch.

Elaine Raabe will serve on the nominating committee for our Circle. Barb Kruse will purchase kitchen needs with a donation from the Boy Scouts.

September birthdays were Verna Neuhaus and Marybeth Cohrs. Wally and Ann Neuhaus celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on September 29th.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Hostesses were Judy Treadway, Carole Thompson, Eunice Neuhaus and Ann Neuhaus.

The Bible Study from the Fall Quarterly, "Giving and Receiving" will be led at both Circle meetings on October 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. The Rebekah Circle will have election of officers with Laura and Elda Deardoff being the nominating committee. You are all welcome to come and sit in on our meetings.

Secretaries, Aleta Neuhaus & Mary Christensen

## 120th ANNIVERSARY FUND

Amazingly, our 120th Anniversary year is quickly drawing to a close, and with it, our opportunities to "Take Stock in Zion's Future" with the 120th Anniversary Thankoffering!

To date we have received offerings in the amount of \$12,886.00. Our goal of each confirmed member of Zion purchasing at least one share at \$120 each gives us a goal of around \$60,000. The first of every ten shares, the "FIRSTFRUITS" of our thankoffering, are being given back to the Lord in four different mission projects. These are detailed in the display in the narthex. The remainder of the shares will be divided among various maintenance and improvement projects to the existing buildings of Zion. The specific projects are being researched at this time, and will be voted upon at the January Voters' meeting. Two of the projects suggested have already been adopted!!

The Stewardship Committee is encouraging you to give to this fund as the Lord has blessed you. We remind everyone that our first "FIRSTFRUITS" are needed for the ongoing work of the Lord at Zion through the general fund. 2006 has been a challenge economically for everyone. The ministry of Zion is not immune to the increased costs of doing business either. We kindly ask that you take this to the Lord in prayer, and that through prayerful consideration He might lead you to generously give back to Him as He has so generously given to you. "God Gives the Most!" Let us reflect that faith in all that we do in life.

Phil Rummel, Chairman of the Stewardship Committee and Pastor Schmitt

## PROJECT HOPE

The following letter was received this last month from Project Hope:

Dear Members of Zion Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your donation of one cart and a half of food, sixteen bags of diapers, and shoes to Project Hope. As fall approaches, we continue to see increases in families. We are so grateful to all who helped us with donations of back to school items to give out lately, and the looks on the children's and parents' faces warms our hearts.

Now that school has started, we don't feel the worry that children in the family won't miss so many meals. We try to pack extra food items that children can fix quickly. Almost 20% of the people we help are under the age of 19.

Thank you for your help with our mission in North Omaha. We appreciate your caring for the needs of others. God continues to bless us through people like you.

Sincerely,  
Project Hope  
Wayne Harper, Receptionist

It truly does warm the heart to see Zion continue to help in this ministry. The featured items for November are trimmings for turkey dinners. This would include canned vegetables, canned cranberries, pie crust mix, canned pie fillings or packed pie filling (such as Jell-O), instant mashed potatoes, canned yams, cake mixes, etc. Please don't forget the usual items of macaroni and cheese, canned fruit, peanut butter, pastas and rice.

For December the featured items will be canned soups and stews. This is an advanced notice so you can watch for those great sales. Also, after the Thanksgiving weekend, the Lydia and Rebekah Circles will have their annual Christmas tree in the narthex for hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves that will also be donated to Project Hope in time for Christmas. Last year we collected over 3 paper grocery bags to give to Project Hope. Can we possibly surpass that this year? Again, watch for those great sales so we can continue to do the Lord's work for those truly in need. If you ever have any questions, please don't hesitate to talk to me or call.

Kathy Rummel  
Rebekah Circle President

## CHRISTMAS CARDS, ETC.

Christmas cards, napkins, wrap, and gifts will be available at the annual Lydia and Rebekah Circle Bazaar on November 4th. The following weekends, the Christmas cards, etc. will be available at the card counter in the narthex. Shop early for the best selection.