

# NEWS FROM ZION

ZION EVANGELICAL CHURCH ~ SCOTTSBLUFF, NEBRASKA



JANUARY, 2016

ZION@ZIONSCOTTSBLUFF.COM  
WWW.ZIONSCOTTSBLUFF.COM

 **COMMUNION**   
**Sunday, Jan 3rd**  
 Communion will be served after both services.

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY, 27TH**  
**7:00 P.M.**

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

Because of our Christmas schedule, we only spent two weeks in December studying Romans. In those two weeks, we learned some foundational truths that all who trust in Jesus need to know about themselves. One truth that seemed almost too good to be true was that, "having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." On our best days, when we are walking closely with God, we have peace with God. On our worst days, when we fail in the worst ways, we have peace with God. This is true only because, "we have access by faith into this grace in which we now stand." Every moment of every day of their lives, those who trust in Jesus stand in the grace of God and are therefore at peace with God even though they don't deserve to be. Understanding what it means to stand in the grace of God and how to live in light of this wonderful truth will be the focus of chapters 6, 7, and 8 which we will work through in the new year.

During the second half of December, we had a break from Romans as we took time to reflect on the awesome truth that our Creator took on flesh and became one of us so that he could die to take away our sin. The choir led us in a musical celebration of the humble birth of Jesus on Dec. 20th. We thank the

choir for their hard work and dedication. On Christmas Eve and again on Dec. 27, we considered the significance of the coming of Jesus into the world. I challenged everyone to consider that if this story we are all so familiar with is truth, it ought to impact everything we do. Consider this quote from C.S. Lewis, "Christianity, if false is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance, the only thing it cannot be is moderately important." Let us strive to live lives that show that our faith is the most important aspect of our lives rather than just being something we try to fit in when we find the time for it. The world has had the opportunity to see plenty of Christians and plenty of churches who go through the motions and treat their faith as if it were moderately important. If we want to reach others with the truth of the Gospel, we must strive to be people (and a thereby a church) whose faith guides every aspect of our lives because it's the most infinitely important thing about us. This is ultimately what we are going to be encouraged and taught how to do as we work through the rest of Romans as we head into the new year. Please make plans to join us each week as we learn and grow together. Remember, you can catch up on any lessons you missed at [zionscottsbluff.com](http://zionscottsbluff.com). Have a happy new year.

Andrew

## PLEASE TAKE NOTE...

- Mission Prayer Partners for January, 2016** 
- 3 - The Gideons International
  - 10 - Huron Claus, CHIEF
  - 17 - Hattan & Harkness/AWANA
  - 24 - Camp Rock
  - 31 - Our Daily Bread



**2016 Poinsettias**—Thank you for decorating our church so beautifully!



- \* In memory of father, Robert Erdman, from Dave & Teri Erdman
- \* In memory of mother, Marty Erdman, from Dave & Teri Erdman
- \* In memory of Elmer Kniss from his family
- \* In memory of David sister, Joan Hoen, from David & Virginia Kaufman
- \* In memory of Art & Doris Spath, Virginia's parents, from David & Virginia Kaufman
- \* In memory of husband & father, Harold Ruppel, from Shirley Ruppel and his family.
- \* In memory of mother, Sandy Reib, from Jay & Andrea Johnson
- \* In memory of parents, Peter & Lydia Busch, from Bob & Norma Busch
- \* In memory of parents, John & Mary Schnell, from Bob & Norma Busch
- \* In memory of daughter & sister, Janae Harris, from the Harris family.
- \* In memory of parents, Ardy & Don Brady from Terry Martin.
- \* In memory of parents, Sam & Mary Gorr and Carl & Elisabeth Loose, Sr. from Bill & Shirley Loose.
- \* In memory of Andrew Grentz, Jr from his family Myron & Renee Fertig; Andreana, Drew, Parker & Gracie Marlow; Annette, Eli and Quintin Hancock.
- \* In memory of Ruth Grentz from her family Myron & Renee Fertig; Andreana, Drew, Parker & Gracie Marlow; Annette, Eli and Quintin Hancock.
- \* In memory of Eva Strecker from her family Myron & Renee Fertig; Andreana, Drew, Parker & Gracie Marlow; Annette, Eli and Quintin Hancock.
- \* In memory of Vonda Zamarippa and Gary Kraus from wife & mother, Joani Kraus.
- \* In memory of Dave & Marie Gorr from Jerry & Jeraldean Gorr and family and Sharon Schultz and family.
- \* In memory of Dennis Schultz from Sharon Schultz, Candace & Bill West; Zac & Kelci, Jaci & Ken Lynn, Jas White; Ashleigh & Candon Ehler, Behr, Dash & Parker; Chance White, Lexi Lynn, and Jaxten West.
- \* In memory of parents Henry & Molly Reitz and George & Clara Jay from children Chuck & Kathy Jay.

## Thank You

Steve and I would like to thank everyone for blessing us in so many ways with love, cards, gifts and encouragement over the Christmas holidays! You are truly our family and we cherish you all! What an honor to serve Jesus with you!

Blessings in 2016!!  
Barb & Steve Kautz

Our family has been overwhelmed once again by all the love, support, cards, and gifts received from our church family during the Christmas season. We thank God regularly for allowing us the privilege to serve him by serving such a loving congregation. We hope you all had a wonderful time celebrating the birth of our Savior.

Love,  
Andrew, Janae, Josie, and Amelia



The KCMJ Broadcast is a "once-a-month, on the 1st Sunday of the month" broadcast featuring one of Zion's / Pastor Andy's messages presented on air. It is our way of reaching into the community. If you would like to sponsor a month, in honor or in memory of someone, the cost is \$75. All months are available to sponsor for 2016 except April, June, July & Sept.

Call Barb at 632-8125.

**CIRCLE OF PRAISE:**

Circle of Praise met Saturday, Dec 12th with 54 people in attendance. A delicious prime rib supper was served by Dave and Teri Erdman, our hosts for the evening. In the business meeting, Pat Stricker and Joyce Kautz said the Cookie Walk earlier in the day was a huge success as we took in over \$1000. The group also decided to give \$200 to the Birthday Gift for Jesus. A sign-up sheet was passed around for the meetings in 2016. Anyone who would like to take a month, the sheet will be at the Welcome Center. We want to invite all to come and join us each month as we share a meal and fellowship around the table. Christmas carols were sung after the meeting and we closed in the Lord's Prayer. Check the bulletin for January's date for Circle of Praise.



**Sympathies and condolences  
are extended to . . .**

- . . . Lela Hilzer and family on the passing of sister-in-law, Anna Adams.
- . . .the many friends and family of Darline Fegler.
- . . .the many friends and family of Betty Becker.
- . . .the friends and family of Helene Herman.
- . . .the many friends and family of Wally Schmidt.
- . . .the many friends and family of Kimberly Bauer.

**Congratulations to . . .**

- . . .Fred & Irene Kraus on their 73rd Wedding Anniversary!
- . . .Sharon and the late Dennis Schultz on the birth of great-grandson Jaxten Edward West on Dec 1st, weighing 6#, 13.3 oz., 20" long. Proud parents are Zac & Kelci West and grandparents Candace & Bill West of Valdez, Alaska.
- . . .Pastor Amos & Violet Harris on their 61st Wedding Anniversary on December 22nd!
- . . .Great-grandma Pat Stricker on the birth of Raelynn Lee Stricker, born Dec 15 at 7#, 11 oz. Proud parents are Jordan & Kelsey Stricker and grandparents Jerry & Suzi Stricker of Golden, CO.
- . . .Carli Rose on her graduation from Chadron State College with a Bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies.

**Ladies Guild:**

The ladies of Zion had a great time at their Christmas Party on Monday the 7th of December. Yummy finger foods were brought by everyone and there was a fun ornament exchange. The decorations were beautiful and the fellowship was sweet. Thanks to the ladies that were part of the planning and organization - you did a wonderful job!

Our next meeting will be at 7pm on Monday, Jan 4th. We hope to see everyone then.

Happy New Year

P.S. Beginning Jan 1st, Ladies Guild is renaming itself to **Women's Ministries**. Any input on how to improve our ministry to the church would be welcomed and appreciated.

**Just a reminder:**

Remember to call the church office if you or a family member are admitted to the hospital. **OR** have someone in your family give us a quick call: 632-8125

We want to do whatever we can to minister to you or your family when it's needed the most.

**General Fund for NOVEMBER, 2015****INCOME:**

Grebel	\$	1,404.00
Other Income		2,002.55
Missions		70.00
<u>Sunday Offering</u>		<u>17,086.00</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>20,492.55</b>

**EXPENSES:**

Bldg. & Grounds	\$	2,118.57
Fund Raising		329.80
Ministry		5863.46
Mission Fund		70.00
Office		406.81
Staff Benefits		0.00
Staff Salary		8,899.21
<u>Utilities</u>		<u>1,196.39</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>13,604.24</b>

**TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE**    \$            **6,888.31**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS:**

**Christmas 2015:** We want to wish everyone a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. Our Sunday School Christmas program on Dec. 20 was a great show. We had approximately 130 people in attendance. The small children performed songs and recited Christmas verses. Our older kids performed the musical "The Loaned Manger", a story about incarnation and where everyone wanted something bigger and better, only to find out that the best thing for Christmas isn't the decorations but the fact that God sent His son Jesus to be born in a lowly manger. It is the most wonderful gift of all. The kids sang and danced and performed their hearts out! We are so blessed here at Zion to have wonderful parents who bring their kids to Sunday School; thank you for all you do and for bringing your kids faithfully. Thank you to everyone who made this production possible. A big thank you to everyone who donated candy - the kids loved their Christmas sacks. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

God Bless!

Sharon, Robin, Deb

**YOUTH:**

The first half of the school year shot past us quickly. I am pretty pleased with how things have worked so far considering how we have had to change things around. We have a consistent group of junior high and high school students each Wednesday night. We have a great time together playing games before splitting up for our lesson. My confirmation class has worked its way through the entire Old Testament and has headed into the New Testament. The lessons have been challenging because many of our students are not very familiar with the Bible stories we are going through. While our junior high students are doing confirmation, the high school students have been studying the book of Acts with TJ Marler. They made it all the way through by Christmas break before TJ had to say goodbye as he and his wife moved to West Virginia. We ended the semester with a going away party for TJ giving the kids a chance to spend time with him one last time. Considering the fact he was only with us for a few months, he had some deep connections with many of our students.

As we head into the new year, the plan is to operate just as we have been thus far. The exception is that in place of TJ teaching Bible study, I have purchased a video curriculum that some of our young adults are going to lead the high school students through. Once we get past Easter and confirmation is over for the year, we will keep the junior high and high school students together for the entire night, and I will do a combined lesson each night as we finish out the school year.

I believe I am making progress in the search for a youth pastor. I am in contact with a young couple I think would be a great fit. They will be coming to visit the church on Jan. 17 to get acquainted with us by attending services, Awana, and senior high youth group. We hope to have them come later this spring on a Wednesday night, so he can teach Bible study for the high school students. My hope is that if he would be a good fit for our youth pastor position, we

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will be in a position to bring him on board in time to start next school year. Please take time to pray asking God to guide this process. Our hope is that God brings us the right man for the job no matter how long it takes.

Andrew

**Believe.**  
**HOPE.**  
*Encourage.*  
**PERSEVERE.**

## FAMILY NIGHT . . .

Monday, January 18th

at 6:00 p.m.

What to bring . . .



BREAKFAST FOR SUPPER

All are invited!

## HELP NEEDED!

**A 9x13 metal cake pan and a snowman glass plate were lost after the Cookie Walk at the beginning of December. You may have accidently picked them up by mistake. Would you please check your dishes to see if you may have them by mistake? And just a reminder to clearly mark you dishes when bringing them to church. Thank you so much!**

What if we took our lengthy lists of changes or resolutions we want to make in the new year and narrowed them down — way down?

Rather than making a half dozen or more commitments that we're unlikely to keep, how about zeroing in on a single word that captures the essence of what we want to achieve or become?

Find one word that points to or describes a characteristic or vision you want to achieve in 2016 . . . something God would take pleasure in seeing in your life. . . and dive deep into your soul and look at the condition of your heart. What do you most hope God will do in the year ahead - then focus on that word for the entire year.

What would your one-word resolution be?  
Get excited at what God is going to do!  
Happy New Year!



## ~ AWANA NEWS ~

Our annual **Birthday Party for Jesus and Caroling** to some of Zion's shut-ins fell on December 13<sup>th</sup> this year and, as always, it was a blessed time!!! The Sparks visited Wel-Cove, Puggles/Cubbies & Trek went to The Village via the back of the Harris trailer - complete with bales of hay and warm blankets and our T&T group went to Golden Living. (We were unable to visit The Vet's Home this year as the residents were taken to Morrill for a dinner.) **BIG THANKS** to Kathy Trook, Malissa Meyer and Carli Rose for baking cupcakes/Jesus birthday cake and to Andee Musonda for frosting



them!!! Thank you, TJ for giving the devotion and the Harris family for providing the trailer/hay!!! "It takes a Village" to put activities like this together and I cannot begin to express how appreciative I am of the "Village - aka, AWANA Staff" that helps/supports me!!! ☺ Our best wishes are extended to TJ and Carissa Marler as they head to the east coast during this holiday break!!!

Congratula-



**December Clubbers-of-the-Month:** Sparks: Josie Griess & Malachi Bowlin; T&T: Ella Anderson & Samuel Bowlin/Maddux Janecek (tie) and Trek: Hope Schanaman. We are already halfway through our club year!!! Keep up the great work!!!

We have lots of fun activities still left to do in 2016 and are very thankful that **GOD IS IN CONTROL!!!**

Our **Staff Christmas party and White Elephant exchange** will

be on Saturday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Invitations will be handed out/mailed soon!!!



**Club will resume on Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.** I continue to ask that our church family pray for the AWANA Staff as we strive to share the Good News of Jesus with all of the children that God brings to our club

and are faithful to do our part to be "one of the important steps" in advancing the clubbers' spiritual walk!

Many blessings to you from the AWANA Staff in 2016!!! Cheryl Rose, AWANA Commander

JANUARY, 2015

ZION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				31		2
8:30 Worship & Praise 8:30 S.S. @ Heritage 9:15 Coffee & Fellowship 9:30 Prayer Team III <b>9:30 Communion/Chapel</b> 9:30 S.S. @ Zion/Emerald Ct. 10:30 Worship & Praise <b>11:30 KCMV Broadcast</b> <b>11:30 Communion/Chapel</b> <b>11:30 Monthly Carry-in</b> <b>3:30 AWANA Clubs/ Roller skating</b>	10:00 Bible Study/Village      <b>7:00 Ladies Guild</b>	10:00 Bible Study/WelCove  12:00 Men's Bible Study 12:00 Women's Bible Study 2:00 Bible Study/Golden Living  <b>7:00 Church Board Mtg</b>	1:00 Valley Food Pantry  7:00 Choir Practice 7:00 Youth Group 8:00 Confirmation/ Senior High Bible Study 8:00 Worship Team	<b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>		AWANA Staff Christmas Party 6:00
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:30 Worship & Praise 8:30 S.S. @ Heritage 9:15 Coffee & Fellowship 9:30 Prayer Team IV 9:30 S.S. @ Zion/Emerald Ct. 10:30 Worship & Praise 3:30 AWANA Clubs 4:00 Vespers/Residency	10:00 Bible Study/Village      <b>5:00 Butterball Making</b>	10:00 Bible Study/WelCove  12:00 Men's Bible Study 12:00 Women's Bible Study 2:00 Bible Study/Golden Living  <b>6:00 Mops @ Night</b>	1:00 Valley Food Pantry  7:00 Choir Practice 7:00 Youth Group 8:00 Confirmation/ Senior High Bible Study 8:00 Worship Team			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:30 Worship & Praise 8:30 S.S. @ Heritage 9:15 Coffee & Fellowship 9:30 Prayer Team V 9:30 S.S. @ Zion/Emerald Ct. 10:30 Worship & Praise 3:30 AWANA Clubs 4:00 Vespers/Residency	10:00 Bible Study/Village      <b>6:00 Family Night</b>	10:00 Bible Study/WelCove  12:00 Men's Bible Study 12:00 Women's Bible Study 2:00 Bible Study/Golden Living	1:00 Valley Food Pantry  7:00 Choir Practice 7:00 Youth Group 8:00 Confirmation/ Senior High Bible Study 8:00 Worship Team			
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30
8:30 Worship & Praise 8:30 S.S. @ Heritage 9:15 Coffee & Fellowship 9:30 Prayer Team I/31st II 9:30 SS@ Zion/Emerald Ct 10:30 Worship & Praise 3:30 AWANA Clubs	10:00 Bible Study/Village	10:00 Bible Study/WelCove  12:00 Men's Bible Study 12:00 Women's Bible Study 2:00 Bible Study/Golden Living  <b>6:00 Mops @ Night</b>	1:00 Valley Food Pantry      <b>7:00 PM Annual Congregational Meeting</b>		<b>Soup Supper Prep Day</b>	<b>Soup Supper</b>