



News from Zion

Zion evangelical church - Scottsbluff, Nebraska

Zion@vistabeam.com

DECEMBER, 2008

JOIN US FOR . . .

. . .all our December activities.
Make sure to take a good look
at the calendar for times and dates.



COMMUNION
is December 7th.
Communion will
be served
following
the 10:30 service



From the pastor's desk . . .

Christmas Traditions

*"But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."
Luke 2:10-11 NIV*

We live in a day when many traditions have all but disappeared. Yet Christmas traditions live on in both memory and practice with special fondness. Family gatherings and Christmas cookies, gift giving and Christmas trees, and the telling of the First Christmas as found in the Gospels are the stuff that brings warmth and brightness to the cold short days of December. At our house there will be new pajamas on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day after the gifts are opened, there will be Christmas dinner with Swiss onion soup, spinach pie loaded with feta cheese, and roasted lamb. Others will be celebrating with butter balls and noodles, or perhaps with a Christmas goose like we read about in Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," and other traditional favorites. We invite you to make our special events this month a part of your

family traditions this Christmas Season as well. On Sunday evening December 7th, we'll begin with the Moravian Love Feast, a tradition of caroling, remembering and having a bit of dessert together, that goes back 300 years to Germany as we begin the festivities of the season. On December 14th we invite you to come Christmas caroling to our shut-ins and come back to church for some hot chili after. On December 21st we invite you to enjoy our Choir's Christmas Cantata in the morning Worship Service and our Children's Christmas Program in the evening. And on Christmas Eve we invite you to hear again the age old story as we follow another old tradition "The Nine Lessons and Carols Service" which goes back more than 100 years to jolly old England and concludes with communion and candle lighting. Many of you will be traveling and others welcoming loved ones home from afar. In all of your gatherings, celebrating and worship, may the message of our Savior's birth give you special joy and the peace promised by angels long ago.

Rejoicing in Jesus,
Pastor Garry

Please Take note . . .

Mission Prayer Partners
for December...



7th - Ben Rivera - Campus
Crusade for Christ

14th - STEER, Inc.

21st - Zion Sunday School

28th - Hans & Alice Wilhelm,
World Outreach Ministries

ZION'S WEBSITE!



Check it out at:

www.zionscottsbluff.com

Be watching for
details in the
bulletin on our
Birthday
Gift for Jesus.



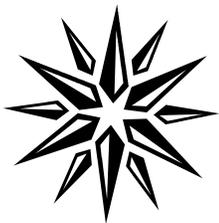


Sympathies and condolences are extended to . . .

. . . the family and friends of Sam Grassmick.
 . . . the family and friends of Esther Behling.
 . . . the family and friends of Helen Williams.
 . . . Katherina Hardt and family on the passing of her brother, Waldine Griess.
 Cards can be sent to: 11662 Burt Street, L-17 Omaha, NE 68154

Congratulations to . . .

. . . Jeff & Lori Reifschneider on their 25th Wedding Anniversary.
 . . . Alvin & Betty Foos on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.
 . . . John Minch on his 86th Birthday.
 . . . Mark & Joan Harris on their 30th Wedding Anniversary.
 . . . Dave & Teri Erdman on their 35th Wedding Anniversary.



Moravian Lovefest
 December 7th
 at
 7:00 p.m.



We will be having a Moravian Lovefeast on December 7th at 7:00 p.m. as was held in the early days of Germany. Maybe some of your ancestors were a part of this celebration of the Advent - Christmas season. There will be worship and singing of the old Christmas carols with a special time for the children. Then we will have breaking of a special bread, coffee and hot chocolate. Following, we will be lighting the Nativity scene in front of the church.



UPCOMING DECEMBER EVENTS:

Sunday, November 30th –

Sunday School Christmas Program Practice – 1-3 p.m.

Church Decorating for Christmas - immediately following church/pizza for lunch.

Thursday, December 4th –

Circle of Praise Christmas Party at the Gaslight/ Sign up at the Welcome Center.

Saturday, December 6th –

Annual Holiday Cookie Sale – 8:00 a.m. till sold out/Sign up at the Welcome Center if you can help bake cookies or candy/or help that day.

Sunday, December 7th –

Sunday School Christmas Program Practice – 1-3 p.m.

Moravian Lovefeast - 7:00 p.m.

Monday, December 8th –

Guild Christmas Party – 6:00 p.m. at Mulligan's; Cost: \$10 – See Donna Reifschneider

Sunday, December 14th –

Sunday School Christmas Program Practice – 1-3p.m.

Awana Birthday for Jesus/Caroling to shut-ins – 3:30 p.m.

Caroling to Shut-ins/Chili following – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 21st - One service only!

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.

Choir Christmas Cantata – 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School Christmas Program – 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 24th –

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion

Service ~ 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 28th – One service only!

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:30 a.m.

General Fund for October 31, 2008

INCOME:

Fund Raisers	1,189.25
Other Income	102.95
Sunday Offering	14,128.50
TOTAL INCOME	\$15,420.70

EXPENSES:

Bldg. & Grounds	2,128.75
Fund Raising	182.95
Ministry	841.47
Mission Fund	280.00
Office	261.90
Staff Benefits	3,326.93
Staff Salary	5,111.40
Utilities	2,276.30
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$14,409.70

TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE \$ 1,011.00

◆◆◆◆ ◆◆◆◆ ◆◆◆◆
CRAFT NIGHT - There will be NO Craft Night in December. See you in January!



CIRCLE OF PRAISE: The Circle of Praise met in the Oasis on November 22, 2008 with 26 people in attendance.

A Soup Supper consisting of delicious Potato Soup and Chili was prepared by hostesses, Nonie Hizel, Donna Brehm and Sandy Kling. Other dishes, including desserts were brought in by those attending. Guests were: Gary Marks, Wally Schmidt and Dorothy Richard.

A business meeting was conducted. Several issues were discussed – one of them being the Smith family who recently lost their rental home in Minatare. A motion was made by Ermadean Haas to donate \$100 to this family, the motion was seconded by Joyce Kautz. The motion carried.

Our Christmas Party will be held at the Gaslight on Dec. 4 at 6 p.m. A sign up sheet available at the Welcome Center.

Volunteers were asked to sign up for the Cookie Walk to be held on Dec 6.

A Thanksgiving Quiz was taken by everyone with Marianne Relka giving the most correct answers.

Bingo was played ... prizes were won by many.

The January meeting will be a Pizza/Movie night hosted by Peg and Jerry Ross.

JEREMIAH HOUSE

The last night we served, was an interesting evening. The kids were enjoying their potato soup when a man came in and sat down. The man claimed he was homeless and he had been living under the bridge for the last couple of weeks. He said he had a cut knee. The man asked if we had blankets because it was getting cold at night. He wondered if he could sleep in the Jeremiah house. Never once did he ask for money. The man even asked for work. He said he would do anything. He offered to help us serve. The four of us discussed if we thought he was telling the truth about his needs. Because he was so polite and never asked for money, we thought he was sincere. I just happened to have the mission checkbook in my purse. This is something I never carry but I had to pay something that day. I felt that maybe it was a sign from God that I should help him. Armond and I drove the man to the Eastwood Apartments. We went inside and talked to the manager. The manager said he could give him a place to sleep, a week for \$90.00. The manager also thought he could tap him into some agencies that may be able to assist him. We thought by having him at the apartment for a week, his cut knee would have a chance to heal. When we left, the homeless man thanked us for our help. We were told that the man was active in their Bible group, but after three days, the man was picked up for a past warrant. We can hope that the three days he had participated in a Bible Study group may have brought him closer to our Lord. Please keep this man in your prayers and that his life situation will improve by learning about the promise of Jesus.

The Thanksgiving meal for the kids and their family members went well. A thank you goes to Barb Kautz for donating the rolls for 250 people, to Cathy Livengood for all the cool whip for 250 people and to Barb Steffensen and Cindy & Armond Orndoff for butter for 250 people. I also roasted a 21 pound turkey. I know the kids enjoyed this special family night.

I hope each one of you have a blessed Thanksgiving.

Terry Martin

LADIES GUILD:

The Zion Ladies Guild met Nov. 3 with 13 ladies present. Wanda Henkel, Barb Steffensen, and Helen Maier were our hostesses for the evening. The nomination committee gave their report for the slate of officers for 2009. They are Wanda Henkel-President; Peg Ross-Vice President; Teri Erdman-Secretary and Donna Reifschneider-Treasurer. Ruth Hein made a motion to accept the slate of officers and Barb Steffensen seconded the motion. The motion carried. The new officers will be installed in office at the December meeting.

Prayer requests were taken by Peg Ross and prayer was led by Peg. The Secretary report was given by Teri Erdman and the Treasurer's report was given by Donna Reifschneider. With a balance of \$2646.78, Donna stated that an additional \$2000 was transferred to the Flex CD that the Guild has. Both reports were approved as given.

Sandy Kling reported that the Guild Christmas party will be December 8th at Mulligan's. The cost will be \$10 per lady with the Guild paying the balance. The party will begin at 6 p.m. and we will have a \$10 brown bag gift exchange. We will also be entertained by the Rubidoux Quartet, playing gospel and Christmas favorites.

December 1 the Guild will hold a brief business meeting and the installation of officers at 7 p.m.

Discussion was held on doing a flower arrangement for Mission Sunday, Nov 23rd. It was decided that a fall harvest arrangement will be done by Terry Martin. A carry-in dinner after the second service will be held that day. The weekend group is in charge of getting the tables set up and coffee and drinks ready. We will also be having the 4-C's Thanksgiving Service at the church that night. We will provide cookies and drinks for fellowship after that service. Wanda sent a sign-up sheet around for those that could help with that. The Guild decided that \$500 will be given to Missions for Mission Sunday. Nonie Hizel made motion and Elaine Kling seconded it.

The Moravian Lovefeast will be help Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. The rolls will be made Dec.6 at the church. We will need help with making the coffee and getting tables set up after Awana.

There was no other new business. We closed with the Lord's Prayer. The program for the evening was a video titled "Journey through Bible Lands".

Teri Erdman, Secretary

ANNUAL Holiday COOKIE sale

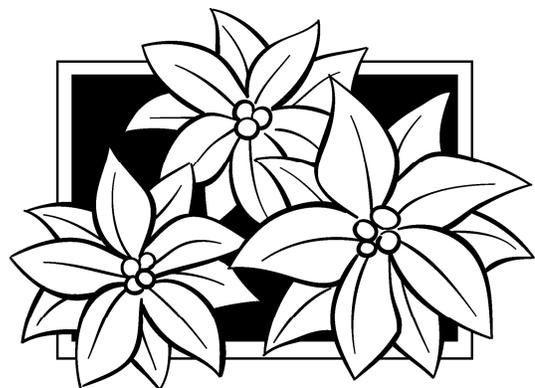
Sponsored by Circle of Praise

DECEMBER 6TH in the oasis

9:00 a.m. till Sold out



Cookies will be sold by the pound. We are looking for volunteers to bake cookies or candy to be sold. We would ask you to bring 6-8 dozen. We'll need your cookies at the church on Friday, the 5th, please. Also we are needing help the day of the sale. Sign up at the Welcome Center. If you have questions, please call Joyce Kautz at 436-4477 or Pat Stricker at 623-1055.



POINSETTIAS

If you are interested in purchasing a poinsettia for the front of the church in honor or in memory of someone, see Terry Martin or call the church office at 632-8125. Cost is \$10.

BOOK RECOMMENDATION FOR December. . .**"The Love Dare"**

by Stephen Kendrick and Alex Kendrick

Today, many marriages end when one partner says "I don't love you anymore." In *Love Dare*, the book featured in the movie *Fireproof* (starring Kirk Cameron), you can learn the true nature of love. It's a 40-day guided devotional experience that will lead your heart back to truly loving your spouse. Each day's entry discusses a unique aspect of love, presents a specific "dare" to do for your spouse, and gives you a journaling area to chart the progress that you will be making. I dare you to take the dare!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD ~

**Thanks to all who brought in a
shoe box or donated money
towards one!**

**Once again, Zion Church, was very
generous in their giving - we
collected 72 boxes.**

**May you be blessed through your
help in this project!**

Great News!

**Our Coop receipt total so far is \$60,597.98
We are over half way to our goal of
\$100,000.**



Great job, Zion!

Keep those receipts coming!



The **DECEMBER** KCMI Broadcast is given by Steve & Barb Kautz in memory of Barb's parents, Jeanne & Jim Kyle and brother Jim Kyle.

Thanks to everyone who shares in this valuable ministry.

Dates for sponsoring the 2009 broadcasts are available. Cost is \$65. Call the church office to reserve your month. All months are available except January, August and December.

SUNDAY SCHOOL - We want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. We here at Zion are so thankful for our church and Sunday School, to all the kids who attend, the parents who bring them, for all the Sunday School teachers who dedicate their time to teach us more about God. We have Sunday School classes that cover from 2-102. We are very blessed here at Zion.

As we near the Christmas Sunday School program on December 21st at 5:00 p.m. and we want you to mark your calendars. Parents, please remember we have 3 practices:

November 30th ~ 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

December 7th ~ 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

December 14th ~ 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

We know these will be full Sunday's but it will be rewarding the night of the program. We will have a special treat this year! "Shoutin' Time" will be doing one song during our offering at the program. We hope you'll be able to attend.

We would love to do candy sacks for the program again. We would be so appreciative of donations of wrapped candy. Please bring it to the Sunday School office or the church office by December 14th. Please beware of candy that can cause a choking hazard. We thank you in advance for your help!

Have a blessed Thanksgiving!
Sharon, Robin and Amy

YOUTH - Lately I feel like a broken record each month when it comes to writing my newsletter article. I continue to be very pleased with how each of the ministries I am involved with each week is going. There are no extraordinary stories to report, but I see continued, consistent growth in the students who are highly involved. To be honest, I prefer seeing this type of growth to the on again, off again, highly emotional type of growth that often accompanies such extraordinary stories. It's truly a joy for me to be a part of the lives of the students I spend so much time with each week.

We did one special event in November for our high school students. We had a group of about twenty get together for a special night of playing one of the students' favorite games called Gargon. In November, we had two more of our high school students make decisions to be more involved by volunteering to help our with our junior high outreach on Mondays. We now have at least thirteen of our high school student (along with several of our young adults) volunteering in one or two ministries each week. Please join me in praying that God would use these opportunities to develop godly character, leadership skills, and a lifetime love for ministry in the lives of these student.

Andy



~ AWANA NEWS ~

As of my writing this, I cannot believe that we only have three club meetings left until the end of 2008 - Nov. 23rd, Dec. 7th & 14th. The following is what we have been doing the past month and what is still to come to finish out "2008".

Clubber of the Month: I recently realized that I had inadvertently forgotten to recognize our clubbers of the month for September. So, to get caught up, the following is our September and October clubbers of the month: September: Sparks - Alessandra Arnold; Hope Schanaman; Micah Schick T&T - Halley Schanaman; Gunnar Buchhammer ; Trek - Kyle Burton . October: Sparks -Paige Schneider; Javier Jimenez; T&T - Halley

Schanaman, Austin Rhamy ; Trek - Allison Stricker. If you see these clubbers around church, please be sure to tell them to keep up the great work!!!

Visitor Campaign Prize Winners: Congratulations to Turner Ray, Breanna Deem and Aysia Ensrud for being the prize winners for the visitor campaign drawing. Turner and Aysia each took home a remote control car and Breanna was the winner of a JAX gift card. As I told the clubbers the night of the drawing, "Even though only three people get to take home a prize, they are all winners when they bring their friends to AWANA to hear the Gospel message".

Operation Christmas Child: Our club is again participating in the Operation Christmas Child project. Last year, the clubbers and staff brought in close to 35 shoe boxes. This year I challenged them to bring in 50 shoe boxes. As of November 16th, we had 18 boxes. I am excited to see how many will be brought in by our last collection day this coming Sunday.

Missions Sunday: We are looking forward to having Francisco & Fabi de Souza join us for Missions Sunday on the 23rd. Some of the clubbers have a section in their handbooks where they have to interview a missionary and find out what their favorite Scripture verse is.

Caroling to our Shut-Ins & Birthday Party for Jesus: We are also looking forward to caroling to Zion Shut-Ins on December 14th. It is always a "toss-up" as to who receives the greater blessing - the ones caroling or the ones being caroled to! At the end of the evening we meet back at the church for a piece of Jesus' birthday cake (baked by AWANA staff members and decorated by our Trek group) and a gift from "The AWANA Elf".

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our

Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ, may we all be able to remove ourselves from the busyness & commercialism of the season and focus on the Reason for the Season. Maybe the "state of the economy" right now is a good thing in that if we don't have the money to buy, buy, buy, we can concentrate on what really matters to God - storing up treasures in Heaven rather than running to the store to buy one more treasure.

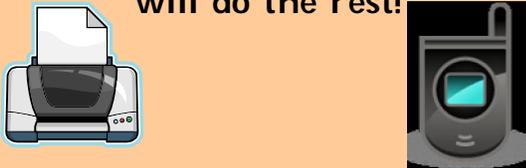
On behalf of the AWANA Staff and myself, may your Christmas and New Year be filled to overflowing with many blessings from God. And, as we begin the New Year with a new President of the United States, hold onto the fact that God Is In Control of ALL THINGS!!!



Cheryl Rose,
Zion AWANA Commander



We are still recycling printer cartridges and cell phones - just bring them to the church office and we will do the rest!




Your HELP is needed . . .

Cookies (please not nuts) are needed for our "Plates of Love" for our shut-ins. There is a sign up sheet at the Welcome Center if you can help.

Christ Is Born!

A mighty message. . .

When Charles Wesley wrote "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" in 1739, he had the angels proclaim: "Glory to the newborn King; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"

And what did Wesley think should be the consequences of that message?

"Joyful, all ye nations, rise." The Prince of Peace had come.

"Light and life to all he brings."

"Born that we no more may die; born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King!"

When Wesley wrote that hymn, England was going through a desperate, hopeless time. Unemployment, poverty, illness, alcoholism and crime were widespread. Wesley and his brother, John, believed the answer for their nation was Christ's life-changing message. Changed lives would bring a changed nation.

Wesley's Christmas song rang true: "Light and life to all he brings." Some historians have written that England didn't have a revolution (as did France) mainly because of the message the Wesley's preached and sang.



Zion Evangelical Church Calendar

December, 2008

<p>"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."</p> <p>-Luke 2:11 NIV-</p>	<p>10:00 Bible Study/Village</p> <p>6:30 Camp Rock Skating 7:00 Jr. High Youth 7:00 Ladies Guild</p>	<p>10:00 Bible Study/Wel-Life</p> <p>7:00 Church Council Mtg.</p>	<p>6:30 Men's Bible Study 9:00 Staff Meeting</p> <p>6:30 7th Grade Confirmation 7:00 Brothers' Bible Study 7:00 Choir Practice 7:30 8th Grade Confirmation 8:00 Senior High Bible Study 8:00 Worship Team</p>	<p>6:00 p.m. Christmas Party/Gaslight</p>	<p>8:00 a.m. Holiday Cookie Sale</p>
<p>8:30 Worship & Praise 8:30 S.S./Heritage 9:15 Coffee & Fellowship 9:30 S.S./Zion & Emerald Ct. 9:30 Prayer Team I/Chapel 9:55 Take Twenty 10:30 Worship/ & Praise 10:30 KCMJ Broadcast 11:30 Communion/Chapel 1:00 Sunday School Program Practice 3:30 AWANA Clubs 7:00 Moravian Lovefeast</p>	<p>10:00 Bible Study/Village</p> <p>6:00 Ladies Guild Christmas Party/Mulligan's 7:00 Jr. High Youth</p>	<p>10:00 Bible Study/Wel-Life</p> <p>6:30 MOPS</p>	<p>6:30 Men's Bible Study</p> <p>6:30 7th Grade Confirmation 7:00 Brothers' Bible Study 7:00 Choir Practice 7:30 8th Grade Confirmation 8:00 Senior High Bible Study 8:00 Worship Team</p>		
<p>8:30 Worship & Praise 8:30 S.S./Heritage 9:15 Coffee & Fellowship 9:30 S.S./Zion & Emerald Ct. 9:30 Prayer Team I/Chapel 9:55 Take Twenty 10:30 Worship & Praise 1:00 Sunday School Program Practice 3:30 AWANA B-day for Jesus/Caroling 4:45 Vespers/Residency 5:00 Caroling to Shut-ins/Chili following</p>	<p>10:00 Bible Study/Village</p> <p>7:00 Jr. High Youth</p>	<p>10:00 Bible Study/Wel-Life</p> <p>5:00 Jeremiah House</p>	<p>6:30 Men's Bible Study</p> <p>6:30 7th Grade Confirmation 7:00 Choir Practice 7:00 Brothers' Bible Study 7:30 8th Grade Confirmation 8:00 Senior High Bible Study 8:00 Worship Team</p>		
<p>ONE SERVICE ONLY 9:15 Coffee & Fellowship 9:30 S.S./Zion & Emerald Ct. 9:30 Prayer Team I/Chapel 9:55 Take Twenty 10:30 Worship & Praise/Choir Christmas Canata 2:00 Vespers/ Beverly 4:45 Vespers/Residency 5:00 Sunday School Christmas Program</p>	<p>10:00 Bible Study/Village</p> <p>Happy Anniversary, Pastor Amos & Violet</p>	<p>10:00 Bible Study/Wel-Life</p>	<p>Church Office Closed</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion Service 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion Service</p>	<p>25</p> <p></p> <p>Merry Christmas</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Happy Birthday, Micah Schickt</p> <p></p>
<p>ONE SERVICE ONLY 9:15 Coffee & Fellowship 9:30 S.S./Zion & Emerald Ct. 9:30 Prayer Team I/Chapel 9:55 Take Twenty 10:30 Worship & Praise</p>	<p>10:00 Bible Study/Village</p>	<p>10:00 Bible Study/Wel-Life</p>	<p>Church Office Closed</p> <p>Happy Birthday, Pastor Garry!</p> <p></p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p>1</p> <p></p>	<p>2</p>