



News from Zion

Zion evangelical church - Scottsbluff, Nebraska

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www.zionscottsbluff.com

DECEMBER, 2009



GREBEL & COFFEE

December 5th -
8:00-10:30 a.m.
Pre-orders and help
are welcome!

Communion
December 6th
Communion will be
served after the
10:30 service
in the chapel.



From the pastor's desk...

BLUE CHRISTMAS

Elvis may have made music out of it but for many the "Christmas Blues" are nothing to sing about. Perhaps it's the chill, short days with long dark nights. Perhaps it's too many memories of Christmas past, children grown and loved ones gone. Perhaps it is the emotional downturn after way too much sugar in our diets and too little exercise, but for many, amidst the sparkle and the wrappings, there is a deep sadness, a real depression that goes with the holiday season. Depression can hit people at any season, and Christmas, even for believers, is no exception. If you're struggling with the holidays this year, here are a few suggestions to make the season bright. Indeed, to help bring back the sunshine at any time of year you may be feeling blue:



1. Get with others for celebration and worship – make the effort to show up to go caroling or take in the Christmas program or a local concert, and some of the special worship experiences offered this time of year. It helps to keep us focused when we hear the true message of Christmas and not just the commercial one.
2. Call a friend – just to say hi on the phone, perhaps go out for coffee, get together at home or go out in some social way or to one of the events suggested above.

3. Share your burdens with a confidant – whether a trusted, wise friend, a pastor or a trained counselor, sometimes it helps to get some perspective from a caring person outside whatever it is that's bringing you down. Here at Zion, in addition to our pastors, Deb Pieper who has received special training in counseling, is available to listen, counsel and pray with you. To visit with myself or Pastor Andy, feel free to call us here at church or at our homes. Deb Pieper can be reached directly on her cell phone: 631-9545.

4. Volunteer – be a blessing to someone else - somewhere. I once heard that the insane asylums of France, virtually full before World War II began, were gradually emptied as the war came under way. It is often the case that focusing on problems and causes outside ourselves, greater than ourselves, helps put our own problems in perspective and makes them easier to cope with.

5. Give it to Jesus – prayer is a big burden lifter – whether you pray silently by yourself or out-loud with a family member or friend – this is in fact what we are invited to do more than once in God's Word:

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am

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Please Take note...

**Mission Prayer Partners
for December 2009...**

6th - Valley Evangelical Pastors

13th - Zion CD/DVD Ministry

20th - Zion Shut-ins

27th - Pastor Bhatti & family



It's never too late to have the newsletter emailed to you.

Just drop us a note at zion@vistabeam.com and we'll put you on our email list.

Give it a try for one month. . . if you don't like it, we'll happily switch you back.



(Continued from page 1)

**gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.”**
Matthew 11:28-29 NIV

**“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything,
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present
your requests to God. And the peace of God, which
transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts
and your minds in Christ Jesus.”**
Philippians 4:6-7 NIV

**“Cast all your anxiety on him because
he cares for you.”**
1 Peter 5:7 NIV

6. Spend time with God listening to what he is saying in His Word – the Bible is not just a book, it's God's love letter to us, so make a date with God daily to read and meditate on the truths and promises of his Word.

7. Take meditation a step further by memorizing and pondering verses that speak directly to your situation. Here are a few verses I have found helpful when feeling down – Psalm 42:5; Lamentations 3:19-23; 2 Corinthians 1:8-9; Isaiah 43:1-2; Psalm 34:17-18; 2 Corinthians 4:8-10.

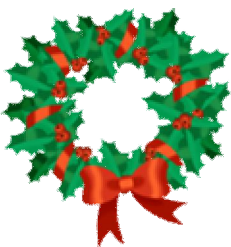
8. If you find your depression to be persistent or chronically inhibiting your activities or relationships, call your doctor. For many people depression is the result of chemical changes in the brain for which there are helpful medications on the market today.

9. I don't wish to end on a somber note but if you or someone you know is contemplating taking their life or doing bodily harm to themselves – contact a professional immediately – this is warning sign that must not be brushed off or treated lightly.

10. Sing or play an instrument. Many of us may not be gifted for public performance, but all of us can benefit by expressing ourselves musically – making music has been shown to actually alter the chemical make up in your brain – and Christmas, with it's many carols, is a perfect time to both express our hearts in song and focus on our message of hope in Jesus.

Wishing you both the Joy of Christmas and
a Hope-filled and Happy New Year,

Pastor Garry



DECEMBER EVENTS . . .

Here are some upcoming events
you might be interested in!



Saturday, December 5th – **Grebel & Coffee/8-10:30**
Sunday, December 6th –
Moravian Lovefeast / 7:00 p.m.
**Sunday School Christmas Program
Practice / 1-3 p.m.**

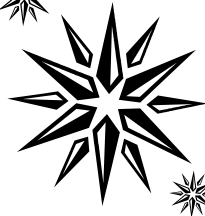
Monday, December 7th –
Guild Christmas Party / 6:30 p.m.
ALL ladies are invited.

Saturday, December 11th -
Circle of Praise Christmas Party
Sunday, December 13th –
**Sunday School Christmas Program
Practice / 1-3 p.m.**
Service of Memory/2:00 p.m.
at Dugan-Kramer
**Awana Birthday for Jesus/Caroling /
3:30 p.m.**
Caroling to Shut-ins/4:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 20th - **ONE SERVICE ONLY**
10:30 a.m.
Christmas Cantata / 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School Program / 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 24th –
**Christmas Eve Candlelight
Communion**
5:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 27th – **ONE SERVICE ONLY**
10:30 a.m.



MORAVIAN LOVEFEAST
December 6th
at 7:00 p.m.
with the
Frontier School of the Bible
Men's Quartet



We will be having a Moravian Lovefeast on December 6th 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. Join us in this unique celebration.



BOOK RECOMMENDATION for December . . .**The Nativity Story, DVD**

The most magnificent portrayal of the nativity ever! Witness the struggles and joys of the Holy Family--- and the Savior's birth at the turning point of history. Epic in scope yet intimate in detail, this major motion picture spared nothing to ensure historical accuracy and cinematic power. A film to be cherished for years to come! Starring Keisha Castle-Hughes (*Whale Rider*) and Oscar Isaac. Rated PG



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 \$11

Congratulations to . . .

- . . .Nadynne Schaaf on her 80th Birthday.
- . . .Myron & Shirley Bauer on their 55th Wedding Anniversary.
- . . .Wilma Buchhammer on her retirement from Herberger's. May you find joy, rest and satisfaction in the days ahead, Wilma!
- . . .Rose Bolzer on her 91st Birthday.
- . . .John Minch on his 87th Birthday.
- . . .Paul and Rose Bolzer on their 69th Wedding Anniversary.
- . . .Mary Huber on her 90th Birthday December 30th.
- . . .Dave & Elaine Stricker on the birth of their great-grandson, Jackson Allen Langford, born November 11th in Amarillo, Texas.



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



The Zion Church Family is invited to celebrate with Pastor Garry, Bridget and the Kids . . . ***Grace's Adoption Day!***

When: December 15th

Time: 11:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Where: Zion Ministry Center



Our KCMJ Broadcast for DECEMBER is given in loving memory of Don Stricker from wife Pat. Don passed away 10 years ago this month.



Did you know you can now listen to Pastor's sermon from your computer? Go to our website: www.zionscottsbluff.com and click on News and Events. Find the date of the message you'd like to listen to and click on that date. Be patient and it should load in.

Thank you . . .

The Ladies Guild would like to thank **EVERYONE** that helped in any way with the Soup Supper. Thank you to the youth that helped serve and clear tables. Thank you to everyone that donated brownies, bar cookies, pies, bread or other ingredients. Thank you to the men and ladies that made the delicious soups. Thanks to the those who set up the tables and did clean up at the end. Thank you, Zion family, for supporting this effort by purchasing tickets and bringing your family and friends. It was a huge success and we appreciate all of you!

THERE ARE A COUPLE OF AREAS WHERE WE COULD USE YOUR HELP:

- 1) Sunday School needs wrapped candy for their 'treat bags' at the Sunday School program. Please no hard candy because of the choking hazard.
- 2) We need cookies for the "Plates of Love" for our shut-ins. Please sign up at the Welcome Center. They will be making and delivering the plates on December 17th.
- 3) The Valley Mobile Food Pantry will be December 18th. We need non-perishable items.

Thank you for always responding to the needs of the ministries of the church. It is a blessing and an encouragement!



The Miracle of Christmas

~AWANA NEWS~

As of this writing, we only have two club nights left until Christmas break!!! Our last big event before the break will be the **Birthday Party for Jesus/Caroling to our Shut-Ins** on December 13th. Also, for the two weeks that we meet in December, we will be taking a collection as a **love offering for Rick & Fairy Hattan and Tom & Sandi Hoffman for Christmas**. I asked the clubbers to talk to their parents about prayerfully considering giving a donation to these two families in gratitude for all that they do for us.

We'd like to congratulate our **October Clubbers of the Month**: Sparks: Allessandra Arnold & Sawyer Riddick; T&T: Tiersa Darley & Aaron Reed and Trek: Jordan York. We are proud of you!!!

The first Sunday in November we had our annual **Pastor's Appreciation Celebration**. The clubbers and leaders wrote a note or drew a picture for Pastor Garry and Pastor Andy on a piece of flame-shaped paper to go with our theme for the year from I Timothy 1:6. We gathered in the Ministry Center and presented the pastors and their wives with their "booklets", a card for Dewey & Betty and a gift card from Chili's for each of them. After the clubbers and leaders went through a line past Pastor Garry & Bridget, Pastor Andy, Janae (& Josie☺) and Dewey & Betty and gave them hugs and "high-fives" of thanks, we enjoyed Trail Mix - which included some "flaming-hot" snack items!☺ We are so blessed with the Pastoral Staff here at Zion. I also want to mention as I did that night with the clubbers and Staff that two additional people to thank would be our church secretary, Barb Kautz and a "lay person" that helps out ministering to our shut-ins and nursing home people - Linda Peterson. A BIG THANKS to all of you for taking care of "the flock - and beyond" at Zion!!!

We participated in the **Operation Christmas Child** project again this year! Our final count of contribution was 36 boxes! Woo Hoo!!! This has been such a fun project for many of us to participate in as we shop for special items to put in each child's gift box. What a small thing we can do to brighten the lives of children that have so little, yet seem to be much more quick - than those of us here in America that have so much - to be thankful for what they have.

On the first Sunday in November, we were blessed to have **George Miller, the Missions speaker** that shared with the congregation in our morning worship services and Sunday School, come and speak to the clubbers that afternoon. Please see below for a cute story that resulted from this. ☺

"The Commander Commentary"

- 1) I announced to the clubbers at Opening Ceremony of

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Missions Sunday that we were going to have a special speaker during Council Time that evening. I told the kids that his name was Mr. George Miller and that he lived in Buffalo, NY. So, during the Sparks Council Time (Sparks are our Kindergarten thru 2nd grade aged group) later that evening when it came time for Q & A, Mr. Miller was asked by one of them, "Have you seen a lot of buffaloes?" ☺ (Mr. Miller answered, "No, but I have seen a lot of water buffalo.") I am SO BLESSED by and LOVE the literalism and innocence of children!!!

2) I have a leader - Todd - that coached his son's football team this past season. While taking four of his son's teammates home one night after practice, Todd was asked by one of the boys, "What was in the box?" Todd is also a Gideon and he carries Bibles around in his vehicle so he told them what they were and asked if the boys would each like to have one - which they did. Todd and his family started bringing the four boys to AWANA during our Visitor Campaign in October and the boys have since each earned their handbook and uniform (Todd & his family covered the cost.) . . . I don't think I have to tell you how deeply this story blesses me!!!

3) There are a couple of other stories involving two of the boys - that are brothers - in the story above that are not really AWANA related but "stick with me" and you will see a small connection . . . In the past several weeks, our Young Adult Sunday School Class has been mulling over what to do with some extra money that has built up in our account and last week one of our members, Randy, relayed the following to us in regard to these two boys . . . The boys' aunt, Audrey, and her family (who are Christians) took over guardianship of the boys after one of their parents was incarcerated. There are now nine people living in a two-bedroom home. Audrey and her family are going through a trial of their own with their young son being diagnosed with a fatal disease - ALD - over a year ago. (Audrey and her family refuse to apply for government aid - and we are concerned that she might not accept a gift from our class.) Randy works with Amy (who is a member of our church and brings her boys to AWANA). Amy helps out Audrey by picking the kids up for school. When one of the boys got into her van recently, he was so excited because he was wearing a "new" pair of jeans from Goodwill. WELL, now that our class has a vision/project, we are getting the "ball rolling"!!! One of our class members has a close connection ☺ with Kiwanis and is getting a Christmas tree for the family. Amy is getting clothes sizes for the children. In addition to the monetary gift from our class, class members are going to buy gifts for the kids. (I found out tonight at AWANA from Randy that Amy told Audrey what we

wanted to do and she reluctantly accepted!☺) I am SO BLESSED to have these people as a part of my church family - working in the AWANA program - attending Sunday School with them and I am SO EXCITED to be a member of the Body of Christ that desires to glorify God and bless a sister in Christ and her family this Holiday Season!!! (I hope I don't get in trouble for mentioning names in these stories because these are people that don't want recognition and are just faithfully doing what God has commanded them to do. But I felt that in order for you to follow the stories I needed to make it clearer so you didn't get "lost".)

I know that I have gone way over on my "allotted" space in the newsletter but I HAD to tell you these "warm, fuzzy feeling" stories that are what CHRISTMAS is all about! One final thing that I would like to point out to you is that Audrey has TOTALLY grasped what I try to remind you (& myself) every month . . . and that is that "God Is In Control". May God bless you incredibly as you celebrate with your friends and family the Birth of Our Savior!!!

Cheryl Rose, Commander

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.

A possible message for the United States?

CIRCLE OF PRAISE: The Circle of Praise met on November 6th in the Oasis with Ruth Hein, Lela Hilzer, Nonie Hize, Joyce Johnston and Verna Schaffer as hostesses. Thirty-six people were in attendance.

A delicious soup supper with cornbread, veggie tray and homemade desserts were enjoyed by all.

A short business meeting was held. It was decided that our Christmas Party would take place at the Steel Grill on December 11th. Everyone will have the opportunity to order off the menu. There will be no gift exchange this year.

The host sheet for 2010 was passed around and everyone was urged to take part in hosting a meeting.

The January meeting will be hosted by Donna Brehm, Rich, Peg and Jerry. A spaghetti dinner is planned.

The meeting was turned over to Ruth for Bingo with evening concluding in the Lord's Prayer.
Peg Ross

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MOPS at Night:

Ahh, the busy time of Christmas. Gotta get decorations, buy gifts, prepare food, the job never ends! Or so it seems. We are praying that your Christmas is focused on the real reason for this season, **JESUS CHRIST!**

MOPS @ Night will be celebrating Christmas on December 8th. We hope to see all moms of Kindergarten and younger there. It will be a fun, relaxing time. The perfect break for this busy time of year. Take the time, you'll be glad you did!

Have a blessed Christmas and we will see you back on January 12th!

Andi Hale
MOPS Coordinator

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Jeremiah House:

The kids had their Family Thanksgiving on the 10th of November. They were planning on 125 people. Our church was asked to cook a 20 lb. turkey and bring 150 dinner rolls. The kids did not meet this Tuesday. The staff met for a meeting. Next month is close to Christmas, so we may not have to serve. I will find out.

Have a good Thanksgiving!



SUNDAY SCHOOL:

We want to wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving. We have so much to be thankful for here at Zion - for dedicated teachers, for a pastoral staff that goes beyond the call of duty, and for parents who faithfully bring their children to Sunday School to learn about Jesus. We are busy getting our Christmas program in line. Please check the practices that will start on Sunday, December 6th and Sunday, December 13th both at 1:00. The last practice will be on Saturday, December 19th (dress rehearsal) at 10:00a.m. Our program will be on Sunday, December 20th at 5:00 p.m. Please sure to attend. The kids will be "Cooking Up Christmas" a delightful musical that will entertain and tell the message of Jesus through our kids. We would so appreciate wrapped candy for the kids so we can make Christmas sacks for them. You can turn the candy into the Sunday School office or the church office. We thank you so much for supporting our Zion Sunday School.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving,
Sharon, Robin, Amy



Missions

We had a busy month sharing mission experiences. We had a good Mission Sunday while we enjoyed George Miller from AMG International. George is a "Child Sponsorship Ambassador". Many in our congregation sponsored children in Indonesia, Philippines and Uganda. What a wonderful gift of love for these children. George gave us a gift of his voice, singing beautiful classical music. Thanks to the Ladies Guild and all of you that brought food. We enjoyed a delicious meal.

We were also happy to have Rev. Clair Longuevan sharing during our Sunday service. He is a very busy man serving in ministry work around the world. All his children serve in missions. What a blessed family. It was nice that we could hear from someone that had experience handing out the shoe-box gifts. It was nice to know how much joy they give needy children in poor conditions. We have so much to be thankful for.

Thank you to all that gave so generously to the mission fund. The money will be divided amongst many ministries.

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving,
Terry Martin

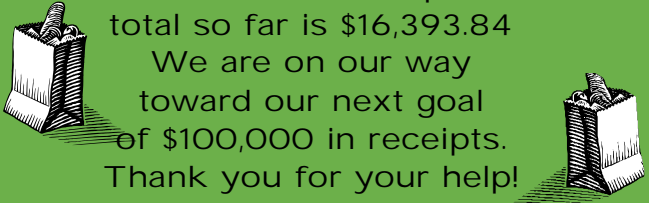
General Fund for October, 2009

INCOME:	1,263.45
Sunday Offering	13,135.00
<u>Fund Raising</u>	<u>1,615.45</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 16,013.90

EXPENSES:	
Bldg. & Grounds	1,894.00
Fund Raising	79.24
Ministry	1,002.24
Office	710.13
Staff Benefits	3,540.01
Staff Salary	4,993.13
Tax	804.52
<u>Utilities</u>	<u>2,165.39</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$ 15,188.66

TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE \$ 825.24

Our COOP receipts total so far is \$16,393.84
We are on our way toward our next goal of \$100,000 in receipts.
Thank you for your help!




WOULD YOU HELP OUR PASTORS?
If for some unfortunate reason you are admitted to the hospital, please:

#1) Have someone call the church office at 632-8125 and let us know.

#2) Be sure to tell them at the hospital that your **church affiliation** is Zion Evangelical Church. (Your name is *supposed* to go on a list for the Pastors to see but many times that does not happen.)

Please understand that the hospital *will not* call the church or notify us of your hospitalization; therefore our only way of knowing you're in the hospital is if we are notified by you or your family. Our sincerest desire is to be there for you during your hospitalization. Thanks for your help with this!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
Thanks to all who participated in this great project. May you be blessed through your help and contribution in making a child's Christmas a happy one. We collected **79 boxes!**



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



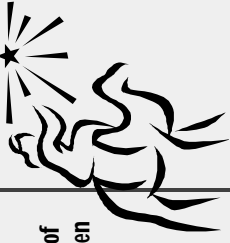






*"...they will call him Immanuel"
— which means,
"God with us."*



Matthew 1:23

December, 2009

Zion Evangelical Church Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." ... Luke 2: 11</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/Office 9:55 Take Twenty 10:30 Worship & Praise 11:00 KOMI Broadcast 11:30 Communion 1-3 S.S. Program Practice 3:30 AWANA Clubs 7:00 Moravian Lovefeast</p>	 <p>10:00 Bible Study/Village</p> <p>6:30 Ladies Guild Christmas Party</p>	<p>10:00 Bible Study/Wei-Life</p> <p>12:00 Biblical Hebrew</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 Brother's Bible Study 7:00 Choir Practice 7:30 8th Grade Confirmation 8:00 Senior High Bible Study 8:00 Worship Team</p> <p>6:30 Men's Bible Study</p> <p>6:30 7th Grade Confirmation 7:00 Brother's Bible Study 7:00 Choir Practice 7:30 8th Grade Confirmation 8:00 Senior High Bible Study 8:00 Worship Team</p>	<p>7:00 Junior High Youth 7:00 FPU</p> <p>7:00 Junior High Youth 7:00 FPU</p>		<p>Grebel & coffee 8 A.M.</p> 
<p>8:30 Worship & Praise 9:15 Coffee & Fellowship 9:30 S.S./Zion & Emerald Ct. 9:30 Prayer Team II/Office 9:55 Take Twenty 10:30 Worship & Praise 1-3 S.S. Program Practice 2:00 Vespers/Golden Living 3:30 AWANA B-day for Jesus/Caroling 4:00 Caroling to Shut-ins 4:45 Vespers/Residency</p>	<p>10:00 Bible Study/Village</p>	<p>10:00 Bible Study/Wei-Life</p> <p>11-1 Adoption Party for Grace Schick</p> <p>6-8 p.m. Scout Caroling</p>	<p>6:30 Men's Bible Study</p> <p>6:30 7th Grade Confirmation 7:00 Brother's Bible Study 7:00 Choir Practice 7:30 8th Grade Confirmation 8:00 Senior High Bible Study 8:00 Worship Team</p>		<p>Valley Mobile Food Pantry 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>Old Sun Mart - Gearing</p>	<p>10a.m. -12 Noon <i>Sunday School Program Practice</i></p>
<p>ONE SERVICE ONLY 8:30 S.S./Heritage 9:15 Coffee & Fellowship 9:30 S.S./Zion & Emerald Ct. 9:30 Prayer Team III/Office 9:55 Take Twenty 10:30 Worship & Praise/Choir Cantata 2:00 Vespers/Beverly NO Awana Clubs 4:45 Vespers/Residency 5:00 Sunday School Program</p>	<p>10:00 Bible Study/Village</p>	<p>10:00 Bible Study/Wei-Life</p> <p>Happy 55th Anniversary, Pastor Amos & Violet Harris</p>	<p>6:30 Men's Bible Study</p> <p>6:30 7th Grade Confirmation 7:00 Brother's Bible Study 7:00 Choir Practice 7:30 8th Grade Confirmation 8:00 Senior High Bible Study 8:00 Worship Team</p>	<p>Candlelight Communion Services 5:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.</p>  <p>Church Office closed</p>	<p>Merry Christmas! Celebrate the birth of the Christ child!</p>  <p>Church office closed</p>	<p>Happy Birthday, Micah Schick</p> 
<p>ONE SERVICE ONLY 8:30 S.S./Heritage 9:15 Coffee & Fellowship 9:30 S.S./Zion & Emerald Ct. 9:30 Prayer Team IV/Office 9:55 Take Twenty 10:30 Worship & Praise NO Awana Clubs</p>	<p>10:00 Bible Study/Village</p>	<p>10:00 Bible Study/Wei-Life</p>	<p>6:30 Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>Happy Birthday, Pastor Garry!</p>  <p>Church Office closed</p>	<p>HAPPY NEW YEAR! God's Best to you in 2010!</p>  <p>Church Office closed</p>	<p>2</p>