



NEWS FROM ZION

ZION EVANGELICAL CHURCH ~ SCOTTSBLUFF, NEBRASKA

APRIL, 2017

ZION@ZIONSCOTTSBLUFF.COM
WWW.ZIONSCOTTSBLUFF.COM



COMMUNION
Sunday, April 2nd

Communion will be served after both the services.



GREBEL & COFFEE

Saturday,
April 1st

7 am - 10 am

PRE-ORDERS and
HELP welcome.

Sign up at the Welcome
Center!

Or call 632-8125.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

As we get further into our study of Luke on Sunday mornings, the attention Jesus is getting keeps getting greater and greater. Word about the miracles he has done continues to spread giving him the opportunity to speak to bigger and bigger crowds of people. His message has been that the kingdom of God is here. He as the Messiah has come to offer a brand new way of approaching God based on grace and forgiveness which will completely replace the old, ineffective approach which was based on doing your best to keep God's law. The more he teaches, the more we see the crowds being forced to choose between two different responses. Those who were aware that under the old way of approaching God they were without hope because they could never be good enough to earn their place in God's kingdom embraced Jesus' teaching. Those who liked the old way of approaching God because they fooled themselves into thinking they were good enough to earn their place, rejected Jesus' teaching.

To those who embraced his teaching, Jesus made it clear that if you are embracing the kingdom of God, he's going to call you to embrace the values of the kingdom of God. Because God was willing to love us when we were enemies and to show us kindness, com-

passion, and mercy when we did not deserve it, Jesus calls us to love our enemies and to show kindness, compassion, and mercy to all people especially those who do not deserve it. On the Sunday we looked at this instruction, more than one person commented on the way out of church about how difficult it is to live up to these ideals. It simply doesn't come naturally to us to love our enemies or show kindness to those who hurt us. These values must come as the result of having experienced the life changing, supernatural power of the grace of God found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. However, for those who have been changed by the grace of God, these values should be growing and making a difference in your life and relationships. Each of us should pause from time to time to evaluate: is my faith in Jesus developing in me a genuine love for my enemies expressed in my showing kindness, compassion, and mercy to those who I know don't deserve it?

To those who rejected Jesus' teaching, Jesus made it clear that the reason they were rejecting him had nothing to do with not having enough evidence that he really was who he claimed to be. The growing number of miracles and the authority with which he taught have more than demonstrated he was the Messiah they had been waiting for and asking God to send. God sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus the Messiah. Then Jesus came claiming to be the Messiah and doing miracles to demonstrate his claims were true. The problem was that John's message was that all Israel including those who thought of themselves as righteous were sinners who needed to repent to prepare for the message of the kingdom of

PLEASE TAKE NOTE...

**Mission Prayer Partners
for APRIL, 2017**



- 2-Samaritan's Purse
- 9-Confirmands/Easter Week
- 16-The Gospel Message
- 23-Ben Rivera/CRU
- 30-House/New Tribes Mission

God. Then Jesus came with a message that even the worst of sinners could be forgiven if they repent and believe in Him. Both of these messages ran contrary to the old approach to God of telling everyone the only way to have a place in the kingdom of God is to earn your place by keeping God's law. Those who had convinced themselves they were good enough to earn their place and that some people were so sinful they were beyond hope rejected the teaching of both John the Baptist and Jesus because they hated the message they brought. No matter how many miracles Jesus did, these would never believe because they hated his message.

We ended the month of March with a beautiful story demonstrating the power of the grace of God to change lives. Both a notoriously promiscuous woman and a self-righteous Pharisee find themselves in the presence of Jesus. Because Jesus has shown kindness to sinners and offers forgiveness, the woman can't contain her emotion and is moved to tears in Jesus presence. She washes his feet using her hair and her tears, she kisses his feet, and she anoints his feet with expensive oil all as an act of repentance and devotion. In contrast, the Pharisee, because he views himself as righteous, sees no need to show any devotion to Jesus. Instead he judges himself to be more righteous than Jesus because he assumes Jesus doesn't know what kind of woman is touching him. The story beautifully shows the supernatural power of the grace of God to change the hearts of sinful people filling them with love, devotion, and gratitude. May all our hearts be more and more fully changed by our experience of the grace of God leading to growing devotion to our Savior.

Pastor Andy

Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!

2017 EASTER SCHEDULE:

Palm Sunday Confirmation Celebration

April 9th (One service only) 10:30 am

Maundy Thursday

April 13th – 7pm

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

April 14th - 7pm

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 15th – 1pm

Resurrection Sunday

April 16th

7:30am Communion Service

9:00am Easter Brunch served
by the Awana Staff

10:00am Communion Service

FAMILY NIGHT ...

Monday, April 20th at 6:00 p.m.

Mexican Food Night!

All are invited!



COOP RECEIPTS:

\$20,370.51

Awesome job!

Keep `em coming!



CIRCLE OF PRAISE:

Circle of Praise met on Saturday, March 11th with 25 attending. There was great food and fellowship with the Ray's and Kautz's hosting! Circle of Praise will be taking pies to the Festival of Hope again in June, so watch the bulletin for more information and updates. Bob and Karen Schmer showed a film of their trip to Germany.



P.S. Now don't ever say mature adults don't ever have fun. Just ask Don Schmidt. And yes Don, thanks for being such a good sport. We know you are just waiting for a nice warm, windless day for

The KCFMI Broadcast for April is given by Louise Kniss & family in memory of Elmer Kniss whose birthday was in April.

Thank you for sharing in this valuable ministry. Please call the office if you are interested in sponsoring a broadcast in honor or in memory of someone...June is still available.



Congratulations...

- ... Bill & Shirley Loose on their 62nd Wedding Anniversary, 3/6!
- ... Wayne Trook on his 76th Birthday, 3/22!
- ... Elaine Stricker on her 80th Birthday, April 1st!

Sympathies and condolences to...

- ... Steve & Susan Huber on the passing of Susan's father, Gene Corman.
- ... Kim Schanaman and family on the passing of Kim's grandmother, Flo Flan.
- ... the many family and friends of Don "Blackie" Green.
- ... Matt & Mickie Janecek & family on the passing of Matt's father, Larry Janecek.

MISSIONS:

Dear ZION partners,

Just came back from a great weekend in San Jose. Saturday night, I was invited to speak at a fund raising dinner for a Chinese Mission ministry attended by 130 guests. The theme of my message was "Investing in Lives."

Over 20 years ago, I had challenged the pastor of a local church to become involved in taking his ministry overseas. He responded and 18 years ago, he began reaching out to China, then Europe (England, Germany, France), and lately South Africa as well. It is a ministry teaching Christian Living and Evangelism patterned after 2 Timothy 2:2 - **"And the things you (Timothy) have heard from me (Paul) among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who shall be able to teach others also."** This past year alone over 1/4 million people were impacted in about 4,000 teaching seminars! Indeed, God is so great that He can turn nothing into something, and a little into a lot. To Him be the glory...

Yesterday, there was another opportunity to minister to two congregations. I feel so privileged to be invited by my Chinese brothers and sisters to serve them!

Thanks for your continued prayers and your faithful support.

Warmly in Christ,
Hans and Alice Wilhelm



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS:

Please mark your calendars for our annual **Easter Egg Hunt and Devotion**, Saturday, April 15th at 1:00 pm. Please bring your baskets. Pastor Taylor will be doing a short devotion and then the hunt begins. Thank you so much, everyone, for all the candy and eggs that you donated. We appreciate you so very much! Even if you don't have kids or grandkids in the Hunt, come and join us; it is so much fun to watch the joy on these little ones faces.

Again mark your calendars for our **Vacation Bible School**, "Over the Moat" with a medieval times theme, June 5th-9th from 9:00 am-12:00, ages 3 (we do ask that 3 year olds are potty trained) thru the 6th grade, (just finished 6th grade). We are planning a lot of fun and mostly learning more about our Savior and King.

Praise the Lord He is risen! And we are alive to serve Him.

Happy Easter,
Sharon, Robin, Malissa

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WOMEN'S MINISTRIES:

President Kathy called the meeting to order, with 20 women present and 1 guest. Prayer requests were shared with Elaine Kling offering prayer. The Minutes and Treasurer's Reports were read and approved. Kathy thanked Claire Boltjes and Maureen Reifschneider who took over the program for the 4C's Brunch in Kathy's absence. Janae shared plans for noodle making with everyone. Ticket sales had been going well for the Soup Supper and it was noted that any help would be appreciated for the Soup Supper Prep Day and the actual day. It was also mentioned that we would have the Lenten Service at Zion on Sunday, March 19th and there was a call for "finger food" donations. Janae and Claire are asking for wrapped candy and plastic eggs that we will fill at our next meeting for the Easter Egg Hunt that the Sunday School sponsors. Additionally, it was voted on to rent a tent for the All Church Picnic in July. There will be more details as we get closer the event. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer, and inspirational quote from Kathy. Noni Hizel and Elaine Kling were the hostesses for the evening.

Joyce Kautz, Secretary

YOUTH:

"Hello Church Family!

I hope everyone is preparing their hearts and minds for the Easter season coming up! This is such a great, celebratory time where we remember all that God did, through Jesus. I hope that the amazing love of Christ gets to your heart this season and that you either remember how overwhelming his grace has been for you, or that you experience it for the first time. I just wanted to put some thoughts down about how things have been progressing in our youth programs. I hope it is encouraging and gives you fuel to add to your prayer life.

We are approaching the end of the school season and will begin wrapping up our study subjects in each of our youth programs. Due to how massive and imposing the combined books of 1st and 2nd Samuel are to teach, the high schoolers and I have decided to continue our study of those books next year as well. We will go as far as we can this year and pick up where we left off next year (God willing). We are approaching a time in the book of 1st Samuel that is both difficult and exciting. It is difficult because we are studying the fall of Israel's first king: Saul. This is truly a tragic story of a man who ultimately decided to side against the Lord. To be God's enemy. This came out visibly in the fact that he consistently does not put his trust in God and that leads to disobedience. Sadly, this is the kind of king Israel wanted. The exciting part is coming though. God will replace man's kind of king with God's kind of king. I cannot wait to explore the life of David, who was God's version of a good king.

The junior highers and I are still hiking through the book of Judges and learning some difficult truths along the way. The children of Israel are on a moral decline that shows no signs of slowing down. In a book full of what are supposed to be "hero stories", we have encountered our first "villain story". The story of Abimelech is a picture of how bad Israel has gotten. There are no heroes here, only evil men, evil plans, destruction and death. Yet, even here, we can see a beautiful truth about God. The book of Judges is very clear that these events are not outside of God's complete power and control. God works purposely, making his plan come to pass. Sometimes He even uses evil men and the evil things they do in order to make his good plan a reality. We have a God that gives us no reason to worry or be afraid, no matter how things go wrong in our world.

The junior highers and I also continue to study the highly enjoyable subject of Apologetics. We have finally finished our discussions about the foolishness of the evolutionary theory and have moved on to other things. The final lessons in our discussions of God designing the universe revolved around one of my favorite things in the whole world; Dinosaurs. Believe it or not, these scaly monsters that are beloved by children across the world are a loud testament to the design of God and the truth of his word. The Evolutionary Theory claims that no person has ever seen a living dinosaur (as they died out "millions of years"

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

before the arrival of humans). Genesis claims that these creatures were made alongside man. So Evolution says that no human has ever seen a living dinosaur, but the Bible says that humans have interacted with dinosaurs from the beginning. What does the evidence show? To my inner six year old's delight, the evidence clearly shows that people have been recording interactions with dinosaurs in Scripture, history, art, and even modern reports. If the evolutionary theory is true, this evidence should not exist. Yet, the evidence does exist and it points to the truth of Scripture's words.

Who doesn't love designing and racing little wooden cars? Awana Grand Prix was a smashing success (thank the Lord)! It was also a somewhat sad occasion because it is the sign of the approaching end of our Awana club until next year. I have loved teaching the basic truths of God's word to these kids. Their questions and surprisingly deep insights into who God is, what he has done, and what he has said is encouraging to see. Pray for these final weeks of Awana. Pray that the kids would finish their books and (even more) that they would carry these Scriptures in their hearts till their dying days. Pray for the staff, that they would have the energy and Gospel love to give their all and finish well as the year draws to a close.

That brings me to the subject of prayer. I am thankful for all of those that have made it their burden to pray for these youth programs and the kids that are in them. Please, keep going! When you pray for children and when you show them the love of Jesus, you are investing in a group of people that are close and dear to our Father's heart. He loves the children so much! I personally pray that we would love them any less than He does. Pray for me I ask. I am still an infant in this ministry and as such I have made some frustrating errors, specifically in the area of logistics and planning. These are areas I struggle with and I ask that you would pray for God to give me wisdom, diligence, and a focused mind so that I can serve as I should. Thank you for your prayer, time, and love!

In the amazing grace of Christ,
Pastor Taylor"



~ AWANA NEWS ~



Paul Harkness, AWANA Missionary to Southern South Dakota, SW Minnesota, Nebraska and SE Wyoming was our guest speaker for **Grandparent's Night** on Sunday, February 26th. He talked to us about "Intentional Christian Grandparenting" - sharing scripture where the legacy of walking with the Lord was passed on to the next generations and where it was not. As grandparents, he pointed out that we are in an (1) Ideal Position, we have a (2) Seasoned Perspective and we have (3) Time. He talked about (1) Praying for/with our grandchildren, (2) Reading the

Bible with and discussing Scripture with them and (3) "Getting Me" into "my" grandchildren's lives - share with them how/when "I" trusted in Christ as "my" Savior, play a game with them and talk to them, etc. Paul also gave us the opportunity to take advantage of hand-outs that he had made for us as well as looking at books that he had of his own on the Christian grandparenting subject. After the grandparents in attendance got to see what their grandchildren do in handbook time and game time, we all gathered in the Ministry Center for pie ala mode. We had a GREAT evening of fellowship!!!



We then celebrated "**March Madness**" the Zion AWANA way!!! ☺ We had a **Mismatched Night**, **Crazy Sox Night** and along with **Grand Prix** on March 26th, we wore our favorite AWANA color!!!

In our preparation for Grand Prix, we had a **Pit Party** on the morning of March 18th. It was a fun time to work on our cars - get help cutting out a car, painting it, putting weights on it, putting the axels and wheels, etc. Thank you, Art & Pam DeVos for taking the lead in running **Grand Prix** as well as Andee Musonda and Janae Griess for the amazing decorations!!! I'm so thankful for the rest of the AWANA Staff as well for always being willing to pitch in and help wherever there is a need. Events like this ARE NOT a



(Continued on page 6)



"one man/woman show"!!! Art started out our evening with a brief devotion using Ephesians 2:8-10 as well as talking about attending Camp Rock this summer!!! (The Commander DEFINITELY APPROVED of that message!!! ☺) Then "we were off to the races!!!



I ABSOLUTELY LOVED watching parents help their child with their car!!

~COMMANDER COMMENTARY~

I have not written a Commander Commentary in quite a while but there have been a couple of "God-things" come up recently that I would like to share with you . . .

A few weeks ago, one of my "AWANA Moms" was on Facebook and on the Scottsbluff/ Gering Garage Sale page a woman had posted that she was looking for an AWANA program to send her children to.

Well, my AWANA Mom responded to her immediately and told her about our club - and as they say - "the rest is history"!!!! The children have been in attendance ever since!!!

The next thing is something that I have "marveled" at for years during our song time in AWANA. We (I) can tend to stereo-type kids as wanting to sing fast-paced/high energy songs. However, when given the opportunity to request a song, very often a clubber will choose a slow, worshipful song. Years ago, the favorite was "Awesome God" and recently a clubber requested "Mighty to Save". ☺

I recently received a text from a friend/AWANA mom telling me that her son had asked an adult in his life if he knew where he was going when he died. The man replied, "Hell, because I'm naughty, etc." My friend's son responded, saying, "You can change that and go to Heaven with us by asking for forgiveness and asking Jesus into your heart". AWANA's mission has long been to teach kids to KNOW, LOVE & SERVE the Lord. They have recently started putting more emphasis on discipleship and helping kids to be more confident in sharing their faith. I am not saying that this young man's boldness to ask this adult in his life if he knew where he was going when he died was because of AWANA's influence in his life (because he also has a strong support system at home) but I would hope that it played a small part in it!!!

In closing, as we look to the Easter celebration of our Risen Savior in April, I wanted to share the beautiful artwork of one of our Cubbies (above) where they painted with watercolors and then the leaders glued the three crosses on the dried paper. My prayer is that all of you know beyond a doubt where you are going when you die and have put your faith in Jesus so that you can go to Heaven with "us"!!!! ☺

We only have three more club meetings in April (NO CLUB on Palm Sunday and Easter) and then Jamboree is the first Sunday in May!!! Wow, I am so thankful that **GOD IS IN CONTROL** of this crazy/fast-paced rollercoaster ride of life!!!

Cheryl Rose,
AWANA Commander



APRIL, 2017

ZION EVANGELICAL CHURCH CALENDAR



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>8:30 Worship & Praise 8:30 S.S. @ Heritage 9:15 Coffee & Fellowship 9:30 Communion/Chapel 9:30 Prayer Team III 10:30 Worship & Praise 10:30 KCMI Broadcast 11:30 Communion/Chapel 3:30 AWANA 5:30 Sr High Fellowship 7:00 Lenten/Federated/Schick</p>	<p>10:00 Bible Study/Village 7:00 Women's Ministries</p>	<p>10:00 Bible Study/WelCove 12:00 Men's Bible Study 2:00 Bible Study/Golden Living 2:00 Women's Bible Study/Roth 7:00 Church Board Mtg</p>	<p>1:00 Valley Food Pantry 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 Choir 8:00 Worship Team 8:00 Sr High Bible Study</p>	<p>7:00 Jr High Youth 7:15 Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>7:00 Confirmation Pictures / practice</p>	<p>GREBEL & COFFEE 7-10AM 7:30am Youth to Evans Plunge</p>
<p>ONE SERVICE ONLY 9:15 Coffee & Fellowship 9:30 Prayer Team IV 9:30 S.S. @ Zion/Emerald Ct. 10:30 Confirmation Service NO AWANA 4:00 Vespers/Residency  PALM SUNDAY</p>	<p>10:00 Bible Study/Village</p>	<p>10:00 Bible Study/WelCove 12:00 Men's Bible Study 2:00 Bible Study/Golden Living 2:00 Women's Bible Study/Roth 6:00 MOPS @ Night</p>	<p>1:00 Valley Food Pantry 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 Choir 8:00 Worship Team 8:00 Sr High Bible Study</p>	<p>7:00 Jr High Youth 7:15 Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>7:00 Confirmation Pictures / practice</p>	<p> Easter Egg Hunt 1:00pm</p>
<p>RESURRECTION SUNDAY 16 7:30 Easter Communion 8:30 S.S. @ Heritage 9:00 Breakfast served by AWANA 9:30 Prayer Team V 9:30 S.S. @ Zion/Emerald Ct. 10:00 Easter Communion NO AWANA </p>	<p>10:00 Bible Study/Village Family Night 6:00 pm</p>	<p>10:00 Bible Study/WelCove 12:00 Men's Bible Study 2:00 Bible Study/Golden Living 2:00 Women's Bible Study/Roth 6:00 MOPS @ Night</p>	<p>1:00 Valley Food Pantry 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 Choir 8:00 Worship Team 8:00 Sr High Bible Study</p>	<p>7:00 Jr High Youth 7:15 Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>Church office closed</p>	
<p>8:30 Worship & Praise 8:30 S.S. @ Heritage 9:15 Coffee & Fellowship 9:30 P Prayer Team I/30 Team II 9:30 S.S. @ Zion/Emerald Ct. 10:30 Worship & Praise 3:30 AWANA 5:30 Sr High Fellowship</p>	<p>10:00 Bible Study/Village</p>	<p>10:00 Bible Study/WelCove 12:00 Men's Bible Study 2:00 Bible Study/Golden Living 2:00 Women's Bible Study/Roth 6:00 MOPS @ Night</p>	<p>1:00 Valley Food Pantry 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 Choir 8:00 Worship Team 8:00 Sr High Bible Study</p>	<p>7:00 Jr High Youth 7:15 Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>Happy Birthday, Pastor Amos!</p>