



NEWS FROM ZION

ZION EVANGELICAL CHURCH ~ SCOTTSBLUFF, NEBRASKA

DECEMBER, 2011

ZION@VISTABEAM.COM
WWW.ZIONSCOTTSBLUFF.COM



Communion
will be served
December 4th



following the 10:30 service.

GREBEL & COFFEE

Saturday, December 3rd

7 a.m. - 10 a.m.

PRE-ORDERS and HELP welcome.

Sign up at the
Welcome Center!
or call 632-8125.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

"In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it."

John 1:4-5 NIV



Dear Church Family,

Welcome to the brightest season at the darkest time of the year. I think it no coincidence that the celebration of the coming of the Light of the World, Jesus Christ, should come when the days are shortest and the nights longest! What a vivid picture of the reality all around us. For there is much darkness in the world, hatred, hurt and sadness. But Jesus has come to take away our darkness, turn our mourning into song, heal our hurts, give hope to the despairing and offer life everlasting to those facing death. Have you come into the light of his love? Of all the gifts ever given at this blessed season the greatest is this:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16 NIV

Wishing you all the joy that comes with Jesus and God's richest blessings as we enter the New Year,

*Pastor Garry, Bridget,
Anna, Micah, Nathan
and Grace*



PLEASE TAKE NOTE...

Mission Prayer Partners
for DECEMBER, 2011

4th - Hans Wilhelm/

World Outreach

11th - Our Zion Shut-ins

18th - Zion Sunday School

25th - Zion Evangelical Church



GET YOUR NEWSLETTER FIRST AND IN COLOR IF YOU RECEIVE IT VIA EMAIL. 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.



*"For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will
be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace."*

~ Isaiah 9:6 NIV

TAKE NOTE OF THE DECEMBER EVENTS:

- Dec 3rd, 7:00 a.m.
Grebel & Coffee
- Dec 4th, 7:00 p.m.
Moravian Lovefeast
- Dec 5th, 6:00 p.m.
Ladies Guild Christmas
- Dec 10th, 8:00 a.m.
Cookie Walk
- Dec 11th, 3:30 p.m.
Birthday for Jesus/Caroling in Awana
- Dec 16th,
Circle of Praise Christmas party
- Dec 18th, 10:30 a.m. ONE SERVICE (C)
Christmas Cantata



General Fund for October, 2011

INCOME:

Fund Raisers	\$	1,050.00
Other Income		89.00
Sunday Offering		16,767.00
<u>Uncategorized Income</u>		<u>1,665.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$	19,571.00

EXPENSES:

Bldg. & Grounds	\$	3,192.06
Fund Raising		204.53
Ministry		947.40
Office		641.04
Special Expense		75.00
Staff Benefits		4,019.16
Staff Salary		6,481.88
<u>Utilities</u>		<u>1,471.81</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$	17,032.88

TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE \$ **2,538.12**

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**ZION'S Birthday
Gift to Jesus...**



This year our **Birthday Gift to Jesus** will be given to our church member, Judy Kuxhausen, who is currently battling cancer and is dealing with many medical expenses. You can leave your monetary gift in the gold box in the foyer. Checks can be made out to **ZION MISSIONS** and we'll see that Judy receives your gift.

Happy Birthday, Jesus

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Dear Zion Family,

Being part of the Zion Church for the past 16 years has been a real joy and a real blessing! We leave you with heavy hearts but know that God has a plan for us in Henderson, Nevada. We thank you for all your support for the Wilhelm family over the years and trust that you will keep us all in your prayers. Thank you also for the many cards, emails and the lovely send-off reception hosted by the Circle of Praise. May God bless you richly!

In His Love,
Peg and Jerry Ross

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

**If you are interested in sponsoring a month in loving memory or in honor of someone, call the church office. The cost is \$75. All months are available except Jan. and Aug.
Thank you to all who have given throughout the year.**





The Circle of Praise
sponsored
COOKIE SALE



will be
December 10th from 8 a.m.—12:00 noon.

This is a great fund raiser and we are asking for 10 dozen baked cookies or candy of one kind or a couple of different kinds.

Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you would be able to help. Please have your **cookies** or **candy** to the church on Friday during office hours OR from noon - 6p.m See Joyce Johnston or Pat Stricker, if you have any questions.



AND FOR THOSE OF YOU
WHO DON'T BAKE . . .

. . . this is a great way to get your holiday baked goods.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

We had a **Special Congregational Meeting** after both services on Sunday, 11/13 to discuss the heating and cooling system in the sanctuary, which is approximately 40 years old. Robert Busch and Erik Harris addressed the congregation as to the issues involved and why we are needing to replace the units. It was the unanimous consensus of those in attendance to allow the Church Board to move forward in replacing the existing units. The Church Board will keep the congregation up to date on the process and progress.



COOP Receipt Total:
\$100,000!!



We reached our goal! Thank you, everyone, for your receipt contributions and for supporting COOP! We are starting our next round of receipts, so keep them coming!

Zion, you're the best!



A huge thank you to everyone that supplied a box or boxes for **Operation Christmas Child**. We collected 99 boxes - WOW, that is so awesome. Please know that these children receiving a box will certainly be blessed! Thank you for your efforts to get a box(es) ready...may you be blessed greatly, as well!

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Book Recommendation for December. . .



Christmas Stories: Heartwarming Classics of Angels, a Manger, and the Birth of Hope

By: [Max Lucado](#)

Celebrate Christmas with heartwarming tales and reflections by one of today's greatest storytellers. Be inspired by the true meaning of the season with this spectacular collection of Max Lucado's favorite Christmas stories and reflections.

You'll be whisked away to the heavenly battle between angels and demons preceding Christ's birth. Then walk in the shoes of Joseph as he ponders the miracle before him. Travel to a small Texas town where a missing baby Jesus from a manger scene sets a modern day miracle

in



motion. And **we are still restoring** of Madeline, a prodigal girl who thinks she's lost everything until her dad gives everything to win her back one Christmas. **...and we will do the rest!**



Sympathies and condolences are extended to. . .

. . .to the many family and friends of Vera Hessler.
 . . .Chad & Penny Sanderson and family on the passing of Chad's father, Mardyth "Marty" Sanderson.
 . . .Gary & Susan Neu and family on the passing of Susan's mother, Georgia Inness.
 . . .the family and friends of Ruth Markheim.

Congratulations to. . .

. . .Nadynne Schaaf on her 82nd Birthday.
 . . .Pastor Amos & Violet Harris and family on the birth of their great-granddaughter, Lyla Lynn Harris on 11/3 weighing 8# 3oz and 20" long. Proud mom and dad are Jeremy and Rachel Harris as well as many aunts, uncles and cousins in the Harris family!
 . . .Craig Schadwinkel and the GHS volleyball team on winning the B-6 District Championship.
 . . .Sharon Lease who was awarded the "Nebraska Para-educator of the Year" given by the NE Council of School Administrators.
 . . .Jake & Dorothy Kautz on their 58th Wedding Anniversary on 11/1/11 and Dorothy's 83rd (8+3=11) Birthday on 11/11/11.
 . . .Dee & Joe Stricker on their 25th Wedding Anniversary.

If you are interested in purchasing a poinsettia to decorate the church this holiday season, in honor or in memory of a special person, please contact Terry Martin or call the church office at 632-8125. The cost is \$11.00



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CIRCLE OF PRAISE:

The Circle of Praise met on Friday, October 21, 2011 with a carry-in dinner hosted by Ruth Hein, Lela Hilzer, Noni Hizel, and Mary Lou Fegler. Approximately 30 people were in attendance. The group played bingo after a short meeting. The Cookie Walk will be held again this year on December 10, 2011. There will not be a meeting in November. The next meeting will be held in December

with a Christmas Party Carry-in at the church on December 16, 2011. Don and Carol Loos are resigning their position, so please considered stepping into a new role in the New Year.

~ AWANA NEWS ~

We have been "busy little beavers" in AWANA this past month!!! I will start by congratulating our **Clubbers of the Month for October:** Sparks - Danara Abshire & Cameron Meyer; T&T - MarLee Neu, Hope Schanaman & Aaron Reed and Trek - Megan Gifford. Well done, Clubbers!!

On the last club meeting in October, we had **Fun Fair** which included a surprise guest for our devotion/special entertainer. I am amazed at how well Pastor & I did at keeping our special guest a secret/surprise. We were given our very own private performance from Christoph Zurcher - AKA: Cicoff (pronounced "Key-Koff"). This is the gentleman from St. Louis, MO



that the Platte Valley Evangelical Pastor's Assn. brought in to perform at assemblies in our local schools as well as perform at the Midwest Theater on Halloween evening for the Trunk or Treat event. We watched "on the edge of our seats" as Christoph juggled balls, swords, fiery torches, etc. - at times while he was riding a unicycle and balancing a goblet of water on his forehead. He pulled leaders and a few clubbers out of the audience to assist him as he wove the Gospel message into his act. At the end of his performance, he talked to the clubbers about trusting Jesus as their Savior and prayed with all of us. (Unfortunately, with all the hub bub of the Fun Fair activities after his performance, I did not catch up with him before he left to find out how many clubbers indicated that they were trusting in Jesus as their Savior.) **A BIG THANKS**, once again, to Randy Gompert for allowing us to use his games for the evening! He had some new games for us to try out that he had made over the past year - Pork Chop Speedway and a Dart Game. There was the ever popular Cupcake/Brownie Walk, the Spinning Wheel and the "Guess How Many" containers: This year there were four pumpkin tins - two filled with M&M's and two with miniature Reese's Peanut Butter Cups. Congratulations to Kassadie Rahmig & Avery Mitchell for guessing the closest to "51" to win the Reese's tins and Becky Boyd

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and Kassadie Rahmig for guessing the closest to "412" to win the M&M's tins. (Kassadie's Math teacher should be very impressed with her guesstimating skills!!!)

I also personally offered the clubbers a challenge for

the month of October with their reward happening the night of Fun Fair . . . For every section from their handbook that they recited in the month of October, they could draw a dot on me with a (washable☺) marker. I thought the kids would just "eat this up" but, surprisingly, the kids were real hesitant to draw on me - and several refused. I think that since they would normally get into "big trouble" for doing this, they couldn't bring themselves to do it - or were like I said above, very hesitant to do so, even with "my blessing". (Then, there were those few whose parents are my personal friends and were "cheered on to make dots that covered half my body"!!!!☺)

October 30th also wrapped up **Visitor Campaign** for this club year. Congratulations to the following clubbers for being the drawing winners of \$25.00 gift cards: Megan Gifford (JAX), Halley Schanaman (Wal-mart) and Brayden Hale (Target). Even though Visitor Campaign is over, I reminded the clubbers not to stop inviting their friends to club. This is a way for them to be a missionary to their unsaved classmates, friends in their neighborhood, soccer teammates, etc. Which, speaking of missionaries . . .

We welcomed Pastor Randy Larson as our guest speaker for devotions on the following first Sunday in November - which is typically **Missions Sunday** for our church. After hearing his message in the morning service on "fishing", I was looking forward to hearing what he had to say to the clubbers that afternoon. However, being short-handed in the office prevented me from being able to join Council Time for Sparks or T&T/Trek. I reminded the clubbers, though, that if they had missionary sections to complete in their handbook, they needed to take advantage of having Pastor Larson here.

Also on November 6th was our **Pastor's Appreciation** celebration. We gathered in the Ministry Center the last 15 minutes of our evening to honor the Schick's and the Griess's. We presented cards to Pastor Garry and Pastor Andy that the clubbers/leaders had written along with each couple receiving a framed print depicting our theme for this club year (9-11/Freedom's Never Free). The print had a soldier with a flag in the shape of

eagle's wings behind him and the Scripture verse John 15:13 - "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" written on it. (It is VERY COOL - if we do say so ourselves! ☺) Although they were able to join our celebration, we are very thankful for Dewey & Betty Brothers as well and we gave them a gift certificate from Shari's Restaurant. For the snack treat, we didn't think that the clubbers had had enough candy from the week before (HA!!!), so they had to use their imagination as I snapped apart a Kit Kat in front of them and also held up the two Twix bars from their packages and asked the clubbers what it reminded them of in relation to our theme. (Believe it or not, they got the "Twin Towers"!!!! We have very intelligent clubbers here at Zion!) ☺

We participated again this year in the **Operation Christmas Child Collection**. I hoped to exceed the 44 boxes that we collected last year and set our goal at 50. Well, we didn't quite make it but did do one more than last year with our final count being 45. Woo hoo!

Our 2nd annual "**Grand Prix - Sugar Valley Rally Style**" was the next Sunday, November 13th. We were a bit down in numbers for the evening which was a little disappointing but those that were there



seemed to have a great time. There were 1st, 2nd & 3rd place trophies - for speed & design - for all of the clubbers/leaders that built a new car. The clubbers that raced old Grand Prix/Scout

cars and placed in 1st, 2nd or 3rd place received the corresponding ribbon. All participants including the Sparks with their Hot Wheels received a participation ribbon. Congratulations to

the following in the "Old" Division: 1st - Chad Meyer; 2nd - Hope Schanaman and 3rd - Tristen Brannan. Congratulations to the Design winners in the "New" Division: 1st - Kimberleigh Cawley; 2nd - Dick Ashford and 3rd - MarLee Neu. And, Congratulations to the Speed winners in the "New" Division: 1st - Cheryl Rose; 2nd - James Cawley and 3rd - Kimberleigh Cawley. It was great to have Rick & Marie Parker join us for the devotions and some "camp song singing"!!!! They were also



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our design judges for the new cars.

At our November 20th club meeting, we were blessed to have Dr. Ron Hamilton, the **4 C's Conference Minister** join us for Sparks & T&T Council Times. I was able to join the T&T Council Time to hear Pastor Hamilton talk to the clubbers about - 1. Doing right, 2. Loving Mercy and 3. Walking Humbly from Micah 6:8. Thank you for being with us, Pastor Hamilton!

As of this writing, we have 2 club nights remaining before Christmas Break. I am in shock at how quickly this first half of the club year has flown by!!! WOW!!! The meeting on December 4th will be a "normal" club night - with a little surprise for one lucky clubber from each club that has brought the most guests so far this club year. On the 11th, we will be **caroling** to Zion's shut-ins and **celebrating Jesus' birthday**. There will also be a gift from the "Big Elf" for the clubbers and leaders. During the two meetings in December there will also be a gift box on the Check-In table that will be for our **Love Offering Collection for Rick & Fairy Hattan and Paul & Janet Harkness - our area AWANA Missionaries**.

We look forward with great anticipation to celebrating the birth of our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ. With that great anticipation, however, we must **NEVER FORGET** the great price that was paid for the spiritual freedom that we received as a result of His birth. And, don't ever forget that God was in Control then - just as He is in our lives today!!!

Merry Jesus Birthday!!!
Cheryl Rose & Zion AWANA Club

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Ladies Guild: The Ladies met November 7th with 16 ladies present. Prayer requests were prayed for and devotions were given by Linda Peterson. Thank you Linda, for you time and effort.

There will be a money tree at the Annual Christmas Party to be held at The Steel Grill on Dec. 5th at 6:00 p.m. The proceeds from the money tree along with the birthday money will be given to Judy Kuxhausen, as she battles cancer. It was also voted on to give a love gift to Erin Kampbell, missionary in Spain.

The "Plates of Love" for our shut-ins will be done on the 17th at 9:00 a.m. A sign up sheet was passed around for cookie donations. The noodles and blackberries were sold very quickly. Teri Erdman has agreed to be the Vice-President.

Hostesses for the evening were Kathy Trook and Joyce Kautz.

The January meeting will be held January 9th at 7:00 p.m., not January 2nd.

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Jeremiah House

A 23 lb. turkey was cooked in our church kitchen to take to the Jeremiah House Family Thanksgiving Dinner. We also provided 200 dinner rolls for the event. Poor Barb Kautz, she had to smell the turkey cooking all day. The dinner brings in close to 150 people. For some, it is the only word of God they hear during the year. After the families are feed, the rest of the food was distributed to needy people in the community. It is surprising how many people benefit from the food. Zion members can be assured their donations of money and food are appreciated by many. We didn't have to serve at the dinner this month. Our week in December is right before Christmas vacation. I am not sure if they meet that week. I will check into this. Everyone, have a special time as we thank God for our blessings.

Serving for the Lord,
Terry Martin

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MISSIONS:

2 Corinthians 5:20-21(Amplified): "So we are Christ's ambassadors, God making His appeal as it were through us. We (as Christ personal representatives) beg you for His sake to lay hold of the divine favor (now offered you) and be reconciled to God. For our sake He made Christ (virtually) to be sin Who knew no sin, so that in and through Him we might become the righteousness of God (approved and acceptable and in right relationship with Him by His goodness)."

For Missions Sunday, we were blessed to have Pastor Randy Larson actively help us to be bolder ambassadors of Christ. If you missed his message, you can view it at our website:

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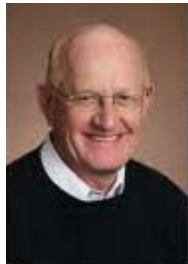
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He

presented

“The Salvation Poem” as a tool to help us reach the lost with salvation found only in Christ. He provided twelve examples of new mission fields and untapped opportunities during Sunday School, in order to challenge us to reach beyond our comfort zones and move out into relationship ministry to those around us and in our community. Please contact me if you are interested in purchasing any of the items for yourself.

This leads us into being His ambassadors to children in other countries through Operation Christmas Child. The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God’s love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Thank you to the body of Christ at Zion who prayerfully and lovingly prepared and donated boxes for this project. Last year we collected 87 boxes and this year we have collected 99 boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Great job to all who helped make this project a successful one by preparing boxes and praying for Operation Christmas Child.

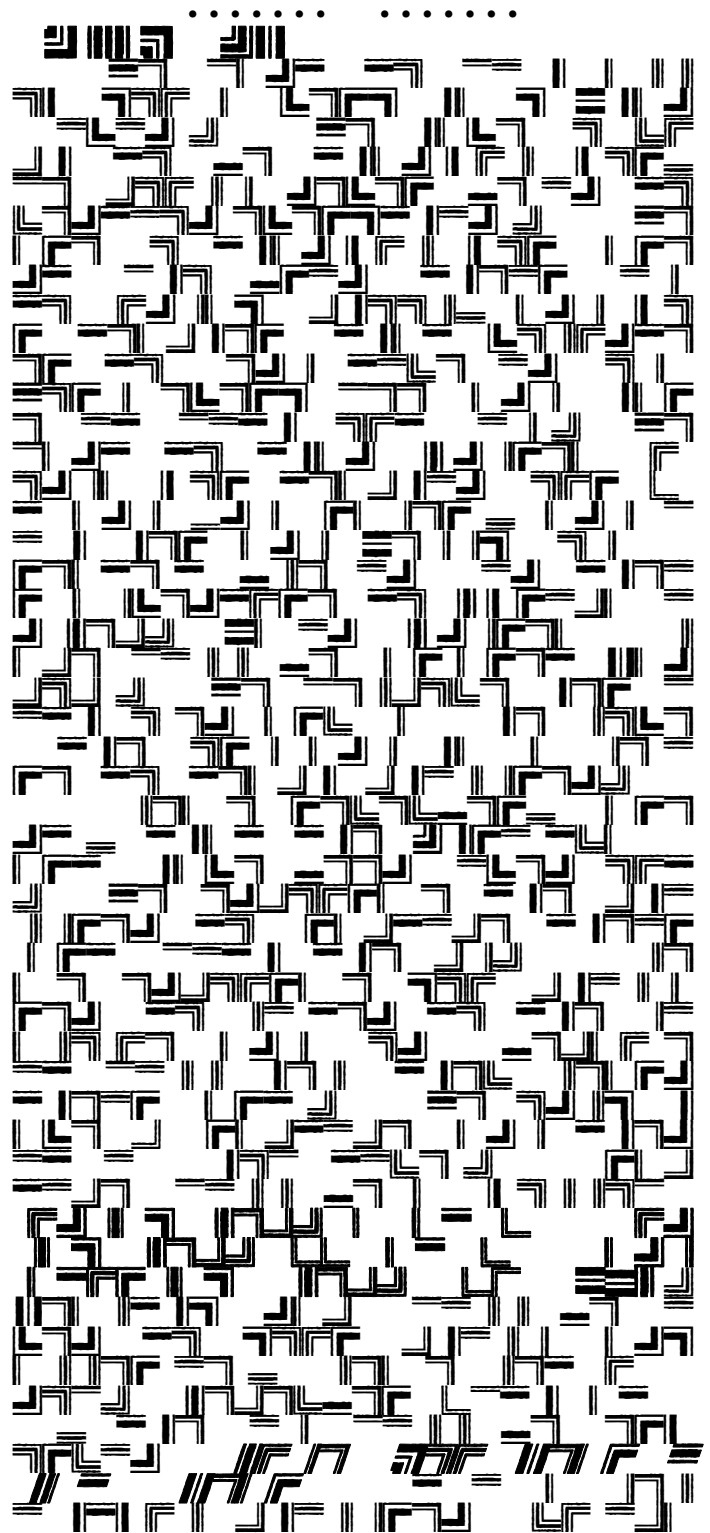


This is a good website, by the Billy Graham Evangelical Association, to send people you know who are hurting and lost to visit: <http://peacewithgod.jesus.net/>.

Dr. Rev. Ron Hamilton, Conference Minister of the 4C’s, shared information Nov. 20th in both services, Take Twenty, Awana and a special evening service on where the Lord is leading the 4C’s in the future. He presented seven preferred outcomes of the ministry of the 4C’s, each supported by a Biblical foundation which aims the 4C’s ministry with their vision. If you missed Dr. Hamilton’s message, you can view it online at zion@vistabeam.com. He spoke on “God is Up to Something New” from Lamentations 3:19-26. Dr. Hamilton encouraged us to: keep our priorities right, keep our minds open to Him and to seek Him with passionate spirituality; and to keep our hearts alive with expectancy. He asked

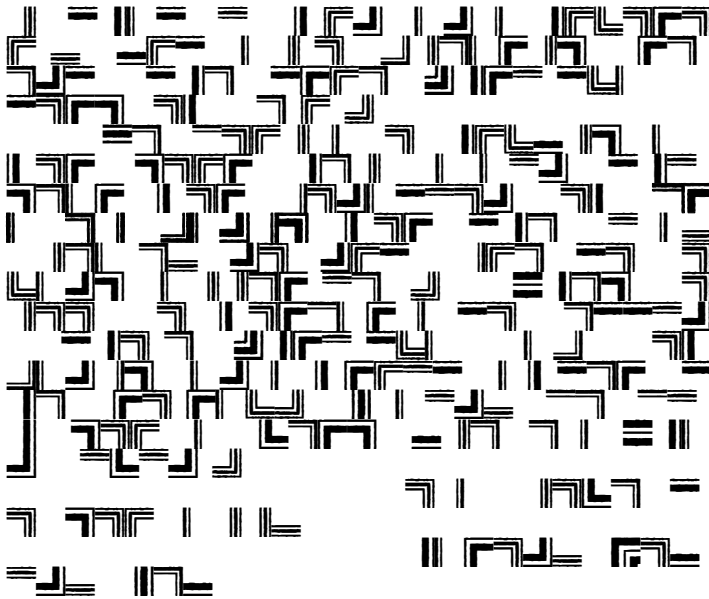
us to expect God to do something in a new and fresh way since a relationship with God makes each day new and exciting because great is our Lord’s faithfulness!

Sharing in Mission,
Linda Peterson,
Mission’s Secretary



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YOUTH - As I consider all of the ministries I am involved with dealing with young people in our church at different stages in the development of their faith, I am seeing good signs everywhere and am enjoying the work I'm doing. Our junior high group is a fun group to work with. Each Thursday night we have a nice group of students with new students showing up nearly each week. With this group, I am teaching the story of the Bible from beginning to end. It is fun to see how interested the new kids who have not heard many of the Bible stories are to learn. Even the students who grew up in church and know some of these stories are learning a lot because this is the first time most of them have been taught the stories in chronological order. The purpose is for all the students to see how God put the Bible

together over hundreds of years to point people to the sending of his Son to earth to be our Savior. I

also get to teach many of these same students in Sunday School. My 7th and 8th grade class has been studying through the Gospel of John. For the 7th graders, this is, for many of them, the first time they have been involved in studying through a book from beginning to end. One of the things I have realized as we have been studying is that most of our students are very unfamiliar with most of the Old Testament history. This makes me glad we are covering it on Thursday nights. One of our recent lessons dealt with the importance of sharing your faith in Jesus with others who don't know him. I was happy to have the chance to explain how studying the Bible like we are doing in Sunday school (and will continue to do together when they are in high school) is an important part of knowing how to share your faith. I also was able to point to our high school students as great examples of young people who are learning how to share their faith.

Learning how to share your faith is a major emphasis with our senior high students. Our Bible study is focused on understanding our faith more thoroughly. We are nearing the end of our study of Colossians which has explained not just the truths of the Christian faith but also why any at-





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DECEMBER, 2011

Zion Evangelical Church Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 2nd Sunday of Advent 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 9:55 Take Twenty/Brothers 10:30 Worship & Praise 10:30 KCMV Broadcast 11:30 Communion /Chapel 1:00 Christmas Program Practice 3:30 Awana 7:00 Moravian Lovefeast	 10:00 Bible Study/Village 6:00 Guild Christmas Party	10:00 Bible Study/Wel-Life 12:00 Men's Bible Study 12:00 Women's Bible	9:30 Staff Meeting 6:30 7th Grade Confirmation 7:00 Choir 7:00 Brothers Bible Study 7:30 8th Grade Confirmation 8:00 Senior High Bible Study 8:00 Worship Team	7:00 Junior High Youth	Valley Mobile Food Pantry 1:00 p.m. Old Sun Mart - Gering Circle of Praise Christmas Party	GREBEL & COFFEE 7-10 a.m. Cookie Walk 8:00 a.m. 
3rd Sunday of Advent 8:30 Worship & Praise 8:30 S.S. @ Heritage 9:15 Coffee & Fellowship 9:30 Prayer Team I 9:30 S.S. @ Zion & Emerald Ct. 9:55 Take Twenty/Brothers 10:30 Worship & Praise 1:00 Christmas Program Practice 3:30 Awana/Birthday for Jesus/Caroling 4:15 Vespers/Residency	10:00 Bible Study/Village	10:00 Bible Study/Wel-Life 12:00 Men's Bible Study 12:00 Women's Bible 6:00 MOPS at Night 7:00 Council Meeting	6:30 7th Grade Confirmation 7:00 Choir 7:00 Brothers Bible Study 7:30 8th Grade Confirmation 8:00 Senior High Bible Study 8:00 Worship Team	7:00 Junior High Youth Happy 57th Wedding Anniversary, Pastor Amos & Violet!	9:00 a.m. "Plates of Love" Distribution to our shut-ins Christmas program	 Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion
ONE SERVICE ONLY 8:30 S.S. @ Heritage 9:15 Coffee & Fellowship 9:30 Prayer Team II 9:30 S.S. @ Zion & Emerald Ct. 9:55 Take Twenty/Brothers 10:30 Christmas Cantata 2:00 Vespers/Beverly 4:15 Vespers/Residency 5:00 Sunday School Christmas Program	10:00 Bible Study/Village Happy Birthday, Micah Schick!	10:00 Bible Study/Wel-Life 5:00 Jeremiah House??	6:30 7th Grade Confirmation 7:30 8th Grade Confirmation 8:00 Senior High Bible Study	29	A blessed New Year to everyone In 2012!! Happy Birthday, Pastor Garry!	A blessed New Year to everyone In 2012!! Happy Birthday, Pastor Garry!