

# NEWS FROM ZION

ZION EVANGELICAL CHURCH ~ SCOTTSBLUFF, NEBRASKA



**SEPTEMBER, 2017**

ZION@ZIONSCOTTSBLUFF.COM  
WWW.ZIONSCOTTSBLUFF.COM



**Communion**  
Sunday, Sept 3rd



Communion will be served  
after both services.

**IT'S TIME FOR...  
GREBEL & COFFEE**

Saturday, Sept 9th  
7 am - 10 am  
**PRE-ORDERS and  
HELP welcome.**



**Sign up at the Welcome  
Center!**

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

As we passed the halfway point in our study of Luke, we reached an extremely sad place in the Bible's ongoing story of the history of the nation of Israel. After waiting with hope and expectation for hundreds of years for God to send the promised Messiah and when God finally brings his plan to fulfillment by sending Jesus, the Messiah, they reject him. Jesus makes it clear that all his efforts to encourage his people to embrace the kingdom of God by repenting and trusting in him have fallen on deaf ears and that nothing is going to change. Ultimately, the nation that received all God's promises about a coming Savior is going to end up crucifying him. As a result, Jesus declared judgment would come to Jerusalem and the invitation to embrace the kingdom would go to the rest of the world.

One of the questions on our minds as we studied was this: how could Israel - with its privileged position as the chosen people of God, with all the promises God gave them about the Messiah and with all the reasons Jesus gave them to believe he was the promised Messiah - fail to embrace Jesus and the kingdom he was offering? As Jesus addressed the reality of Israel's rejection, he gave us insight in Chapters 13 and

14 about what was going on in the hearts of the people of Israel that led to their rejection of him. One of their problems, was that they had convinced themselves that their religious heritage and privileged position as God's chosen people automatically qualified them to be worthy of the kingdom of God, so they did not feel the need to pay attention to the challenging truths Jesus taught about the need for all people to repent and trust in him for forgiveness. Another problem they had was an over-inflated view of their own importance. Their pride told them that because of their religious devotion, social status, and moral superiority they were worthy of the kingdom. Because they exalted themselves, they could not stand Jesus' message that all men (including themselves) need to repent. They refused to believe they needed him. A third problem they had was an overinflated view of their material possessions. Jesus exposed that they were so fixated on making a good, comfortable life here on earth that they did not have eyes to see the offer of the eternal kingdom of God right in front of them. As a result, the invitation to be part of the eternal kingdom of God passed most of Jesus' generation in Israel by, and the invitation went to the Gentile world where it was received with gladness by people

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## PLEASE TAKE NOTE...

Mission Prayer Partners  
for Sept, 2017



3-Our Daily Bread

10-Zion AWANA Clubs

17-Potter's Wheel

24-Hans & Alice Wilhelm



**ALL CHURCH CARRY-IN**  
Sept 10th  
following the 2nd service.

**Bring a dish to pass. What a  
great time to fellowship and  
share a meal with your  
church family.**

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with no religious heritage who were willing to humble themselves and see life with an eternal perspective.

My concern, as a pastor, is that it is very easy for people today to develop the same religious attitudes that kept Israel from embracing the message of Jesus by faith. It can be very easy for us to exalt ourselves instead of embracing humility. It can be easy to get too focused on trying to make a good, comfortable life for ourselves here on earth instead of keeping an eternal perspective. Because we have our own religious heritage and traditions, if we're not careful, we could fall into the trap of failing to make a personal decision to repent and trust in Jesus for salvation because we mistakenly trust it's enough to go through the motions of our church traditions. Because of this very real danger, I strive to be very clear about what our traditions, especially of baptism/dedication and confirmation, represent. I spent a good part of the message on August 13 trying to help our people understand the beauty and the limitations of these traditions. If you missed it, this would be a great message to listen to by visiting our website: [zionscottsbluff.com](http://zionscottsbluff.com). My goal was to be very clear that both baptism/dedication and confirmation are simply commitments made by parents and the church promising that we'll work together to help each child raised here to understand his/her need to personally repent and trust in Jesus. The traditions in and of themselves guarantee no spiritual blessing to the children. Only when we (parents and the church) follow through with those commitments and the child responds with personal repentance and faith does the child receive any spiritual blessing. I challenged and will continue to challenge anyone who is trusting in their religious heritage - the fact they were baptized and confirmed - but has never made a personal decision to repent and trust in Jesus to stop and reconsider. Jesus made it clear that many in the nation of Israel during his generation missed out on the kingdom of God due to the fact they rejected him because they thought their religious heritage was good enough. Please do not make the same mistake. Your eternity depends on it.

Andrew



**General Fund for July, 2017**

<b>INCOME:</b>		
Fund Raisers	\$	0.00
Other Income		0.00
Special Income		0.00
<u>Sunday Offering</u>		<u>17,606.00</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>17,606.00</b>
 <b>EXPENSES:</b>		
Uncategorized	\$	154.99
Bldg. & Grounds		736.70
Fund Raising		0.00
Ministry		771.23
Mission		00.00
Office		274.35
Staff Benefits		247.52
Staff Salary		12,023.12
<u>Utilities</u>		<u>188.20</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>14,396.01</b>

**COOP RECEIPTS:**  
**\$73,860.82**  
**Inching closer, Zion!**  
**Great job!**

**CIRCLE OF PRAISE**  
**PIZZA PARTY (pizza supplied)**  
 Saturday, Sept 9 - 5:30 PM  
 Featuring the movie:  
**"THE LIFE OF JESUS"**

Bring a salad or dessert to share.  
 Hosting: Ross's & Reifschneider's  
 Sign up at the Welcome Center.

The KCMi Broadcast for SEPTEMBER is given by Joyce & Harold Kautz in memory of their parents, Frieda & Carl Sticker and Katherine & Alex Kautz.

*Thank you for sharing in this valuable ministry.*

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:**

"Fried Chicken Sunday"! What an awesome day. We started with Sunday School teacher dedication, our 3rd graders received their Bibles, followed by a wonderful carry-in dinner. Approximately 200 people attended, the fellowship was great and the food delicious. The kids had a fun time playing on a water slip and slide. Ice cream sundaes were served. It was truly a blessed day. Our Sunday School classes are in full swing for fall. The teachers are excited to teach others about Jesus. Please feel free to visit your child's class at anytime and make sure to ask your child what they are learning. There are also many adult ministries and classes to attend. Our church is so blessed...we have a wonderful outreach to everyone, no matter what age. Thank you Pastor Andy and Pastor Taylor for everything you do. Thank you also Sunday School staff for preparing lessons each week. God bless this beautiful time of year.

Sharon, Robin, Malissa

**Congratulations to...**

...Lydia Bevins on her birthday, August 9th!  
 ...Ella Reichert on her birthday, August 9th!  
 ...Shirley Loose on her birthday, August 10th!  
 ...Joyce Kautz on her birthday, August 10th!  
 ...Betty Loose on her birthday, August 11th!  
 ...Patty Raymond on her birthday, August 11!  
 ...Victor & Betty Loose on their 63rd  
 Wedding Anniversary!  
 ...Don & Carol Loos on their 15th Wedding  
 Anniversary on August 24th.  
 ...Jacob Easton on his 13th Birthday!

**Sympathies and condolences to...**

...Jake Kautz and family on the passing of  
 Dorothy Kautz on August 18th.

**YOUTH:** Hello Zion Evangelical Church!

I hope this letter finds everybody doing well and that your summer has been enjoyably full of reminders of God's goodness! I bet you have been wondering what the Zion Youth Programs have been up to through this time of vacation. I apologize for the lack of articles in June and July. Now I can share with you all the adventures that have taken up these last couple months (or at least the adventures I can recall). I will also give you a look at all we have planned for the coming year!

The first in my recent memory was the always fun, messy, and chaotic week of VBS! God really gave wisdom and provided help in so many forms to pull everything together into a remarkably smooth and successful week (at least by my estimation). We had a decent number of kids, most of whom were very interested and engaged in what we were sharing with them. Laughter was regular, and often I saw kids with eyes open wide and heads leaning forward as we taught them about Jesus through the life of David. I was very impressed to see the talents of the various helpers come alive in things like crafts, decorations, and skits. A big thank you to everyone who lent a hand! It was a highly enjoyable week.

On the subject of highly enjoyable weeks, I wanted next to give a brief look at my time out at Camp Rock. After VBS, I will admit that I was not excited to rocket into camp ministry. I was already worn out, and the prospect of chasing teenagers around for seven days was becoming less appealing the more I thought about it. That being said, I went anyway (totally unprepared physically and only mostly prepared mentally). What a week! I felt like I cheated a little because it was like a vacation from my mind! Art Devos is a phenomenal camp director and, in my opinion, the camp has improved under his leadership! Every day there were constant, fun activities and every night I had a very attentive audience to teach. I have even recently had kids tell me that they and their friends were impacted with what I shared with them. Hopefully, God will use it and we will see changed hearts in the kids that were able to attend. I went to camp thinking that I was probably not going to help next year. I left camp contemplating speaking more than once next year (God willing)! I am very pleased with what God has done with Art out at camp and I highly recommend sending your kids next year.

The summer kept going like an express train as Pastor Andy and I began pulling supplies together for

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our trip to the Grand Teton National Park. This was also a week filled with fun and adventure. I think the only other time I have seen as much wildlife as we were able to experience on this trip is when I was on safari in Africa! We managed to catch glimpses of three moose, two elk, multiple deer, a couple of foxes, and more! Much ice-cream was eaten, swimming was done, and hiking trails conquered. If Camp Rock was a vacation, then this trip was a work out. By the end I was ready to get home for some rest.

The season's major activities were capped off with a trip to Elitch Gardens in Denver. All in all, I will admit that this trip was a mix of enjoyment and disappointment. We arrived at a good time ready for a fun filled day on roller coasters and in the park's various water attractions. Sadly, the rains came to dampen the day. The major rides and water park closed down. Thankfully, we were still able to have a great day! We managed to ride some of the smaller attractions. My personal favorite part of the day was the drive home and supper at HuHot Mongolian Grill. Nothing like a van full of crazy teenagers late at night, after some of the best Asian food ever!

Now we are looking at the dawn of a new school year! I hope and pray God will use our Awana club, Thursday night Youth Group, and Sunday School class for His glory and to spread the beauty of His good news. I plan on experimenting with a soda shop on Thursday nights where I would make custom soda pop as an outreach tool! Pray that, if it is a good idea, that God will use it to introduce more kids to our church. I am also excited to announce that my brother, Caleb Boltjes, plans on lending his musical talents to Thursday nights so that we can have a time of worship between our game and our lesson. That is not to mention the different game nights (Dodgeball night, Nerf Night, Gargon Night etc.) that we plan on hosting throughout the year! There are good things to be excited about all around.

As usual, we need your prayers! Pray that God would bring the exact amount of kids that he thinks is good. Pray that the gospel will be explained clearly and accurately as well as believed whole heartedly by our kids. Also, please pray for me. I sincerely apologize for anyone who I may have frustrated or hurt during these last couple weeks. God has really been working on my heart in several big areas to a rather intense degree. Thank you for those who have prayed and put up with me through this time! I ask for your prayers still, that

Jesus Christ through his Holy Spirit, would mold me and shape me into the youth pastor, man, husband, father, and friend that he wants me to be. Thank you in advance for your prayers and thank our God in advance for the good He is going to do.

Pastor Taylor Boltjes

**WOMEN'S MINISTRIES: The women met Aug. 6th with 13 women present. Kathy thanked everyone that brought pies for the Festival of Hope Pie Shoppe. July and August birthdays were recognized. A motion was made to buy two more tables for the Oasis area and that motion passed. Prayer requests were shared and prayed for by Janae. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.**

Joyce Kautz



**GREBEL DATES FOR 2017-2018**

**DOUGH MAKING**  
**FRIDAYS**

**GREBEL SATURDAYS**

- Sept 8, 2017
- Oct 6, 2017
- Nov 3, 2017
- Dec 1, 2017
- Jan 5, 2018
- Feb 2, 2018
- Mar 2, 2018
- Apr 6, 2018

- Sept 9, 2017
- Oct 7, 2017
- Nov 4, 2017
- Dec 2, 2017
- Jan 6, 2018
- Feb 3, 2018
- Mar 3, 2018
- Apr 7, 2018

We need helpers to make dough Fridays... training provided!

We need 12 people to help on Saturdays to on cut, fry, sugar, package and sell from 6-10am. Training provided!

**We could use your help on Friday afternoons after work to set up for Saturday morning...as well as help with clean up on Saturday when Grebel is winding down.**

**Thank you for all your help over the years with this fund-raiser!**

## ~ AWANA NEWS ~

What a blast we had on August 1<sup>st</sup> in downtown Scottsbluff at **National Night Out!!!** There was a bit of a challenge with the WIND for a good portion of the time we were there but that did not dampen our enthusiasm as we handed out 500+ AWANA balloons and 500+ bags filled with goodies - including an AWANA postcard with information about our club!!! We had the opportunity to share with lots of people and are praying that God will bless our efforts and bring new clubbers to us at Kick-Off on September 10<sup>th</sup>. (P.S.: I HAD to include these two cute pics of our pastor's wife, Janae, playing with the kids that came to our NNO booth on the "horse races". She is usually on the other side of the camera. ☺)



On Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, I met with the Directors after church for a "working lunch". ☺

We were able to "hammer out" a lot of details for our upcoming Kick-Off and 2017-18 club year. We made decisions on "time-consuming" issues so that when we met as a full staff on Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, the Directors were able to spend more time with their leaders/student leaders. Thank you, Staff, for your time - especially during this time of year - just coming off of Fair, squeezing in last minute summer activities/vacations, gearing up for the school year, etc., etc., etc. (HOWEVER, I have found that if I keep the theme of Mexican food for the meeting - THEY WILL COME!!! ☺☺☺)

As of this writing, I am looking forward to our gathering at the YMCA Trails West swimming pool in a couple of days for the **reward party** for the clubbers that completed the handbook they started this past club year.

The Staff will be **dedicated** by Pastor Andy on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30 a.m. worship service for the 2017-18 club year. (Staff, please don't forget to wear your uniform!!!) Then we will be "pumped and ready" to **Kick-Off** our club year at 3:30 that afternoon!!!

Thanking God that HE IS IN CONTROL!!!

Cheryl Rose, AWANA Commander ☺☺☺



