

Zion News

"Not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another..." - Hebrews 10:25

There are many examples of community in the Bible, but the word "community" itself does not appear in the scriptures anywhere. The word comes from the Latin word "communitas" which basically means "common."

The closest word in the Bible meaning community is the Greek word "koinonia." This word appears 19 times in the Greek New Testament. In most current Bible versions, it is either translated as "fellowship," "sharing," "participation," or "contribution."

There are billions of people in the world, so no one should feel lonely. But how many true communities are there in your life? Communities that offer fellowship, sharing, participation, and contribution from everyone for everyone?

Sure, a person can belong to an unlimited number of online communities where everyone blogs about things that relate to their own personal best interests without ever leaving the house. We can claim to be part of a global community that is of such extent that we don't really feel a need for much significant participation on our part.

Christians know that God did not intend for us to live in isolation. We are to live in relationships with one another. We become better persons when we experience life with others and not just through social media.

The characteristics of authentic community are similar whether it is a neighborhood community, a school community, a town or city community, or a faith community.

Community is encouraging. We lift each other up, learn from one another, and help one another in times of need.

Community is fun. Even though there are important things for a community to accomplish, the togetherness and unity of purpose should be enjoyable.

Community fosters a caring for one another, an affection, even love for one another. It binds people together and extends forgiveness when things go wrong.

Community attracts a sense of spirit among its members. Christians will call it the Holy Spirit, but others might just call it community spirit. It is real and can inspire great things to happen.

While it seems to be hard for people to sometimes commit time, resources, or an opening of oneself to community, bottom-line is that community is life-giving and essential for everyone.

Going to church on Sunday is being part of a community. But Christians should be involved with other communities as well, taking with them the lessons Christ taught about relationships with one another. That is where Christian ministry can truly begin.

Our Sunday Worship Service begins at 9:00 AM. Everyone is welcome.

Area Sesquicentennial Celebrations kicked off last weekend

PAST WEEKEND

On Saturday Sally and I headed over to Lovington to share in their sesquicentennial celebration by watching the parade. We were able to park at Mike and Serena Honn's and walk the couple of blocks downtown. Saw many people we know in the parade and enjoyed it very much. Saturday evening, Kaylee and I headed back over for the annual fish fry which is always held in June. Fortunately for the community they were able to wrap many of their annual events around the 150th celebration. On Friday night, the Lovington High School Alumni held their annual banquet. At the fish fry we saw and found many people to visit with. With the merger of our schools several years ago we have come to know many of our Lovington friends and the kids who now all go to school together. I especially enjoyed visiting with long time friends Dee Ann (Seaman) Daily and Vickie (Wood) Mechling. Vickie's family actually had an entry in the parade celebrating the many graduates of the Wood family from Lovington High School from Vickie's mom Patti in 1951 to her niece Jill Wood (Keith and Brenda's daughter) in 2002. Kaylee and Miss ALAH Regann Bowles had a good time talking about getting ready to cheer together this fall at Eastern Illinois University. Later I drove over and parked in the country to enjoy the fireworks. Congratulations to those involved on a very nice show and weekend!

ATWOOD SESQUICENTENNIAL KICKOFF

Today (Sunday) was the long planned event for Atwood to kick off their 150th anniversary celebration. Forecast all week was for the rain we badly needed....on Sunday. I felt bad for the planners of this event as most everything was taking place in the park in Atwood. And while we got the much needed rain I wondered on facebook how things were going in Atwood and was told that they were able to have their events and that they had a good crowd. Was very happy to hear that. And by mid-afternoon it had pretty much cleared off. Looking forward to seeing some pictures on fb and in the Record Herald this week. I believe that Atwood is planning to have their main sesquicentennial celebration during the Apple Dumpling Festival.

ARTHUR SESQUICENTENNIAL

Planned to take place on Labor Day weekend during the Cheese Festival. Hope you have been reading the Arthur History Facts each week in the Graphic. Lots of interesting tidbits about our town. These facts can also be found in the photos section of the Village of Arthur facebook page. And don't forget to head to the Arthur Public Library and check out the exhibit there that features some mementos/souvenirs from former businesses in Arthur. I really appreciate those folks who have given those items to me. I know they will bring back memories for many of you. More information will be coming over the next few weeks about our celebration which will be incorporated in with all the usual Cheese Festival goings on. One thing for all to be thinking about is the dinner that will take place on Saturday, September 2 at Penn Station. Gathering at 5:30 p.m.; dinner at 6 p.m. There will be a birthday cake, relating of Arthur history, opening of the time capsule and more. Reservations for the dinner which are \$30 per person can be made by calling the village office at 217-543-2927. Seating is limited.

A COUPLE OF THANK YOUS
The first to George Fritz for offering his building for the wall dog mural of the Rural Patriot. What a great addition to our downtown and the per-

Town Talk

By Marty Yeakel

fact spot for those driving into town or strolling through our downtown. I enjoy being at the Welcome Center and being able to point it out to visitors to Arthur. The other thank you goes to Trudy who writes a weekly column for this paper as well. A somewhat new resident to our town she has obviously quickly come to love this place and see its value. Appreciated her article a couple of weeks ago about the new restaurant that will take the place of the R&I. The same one many of us who have been around awhile once knew as Moses Cafe. The name for the 'new' place is Max's Family Diner, a place where breakfast will be served all day and you can get a hamburger or cheeseburger plus 'typical family diner food.' I know there had been lots of rumors about who was opening the place and just what type of restaurant it is going to be. Thank you Trudy for getting that information out there!

AIKMAN WILDLIFE PARK

Many exciting things are happening at this unique venue. They are now open with their summer hours. Closed on Tuesday and Wednesday, they are open Thursday-Saturday and Monday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Every Monday morning at 10:30 a.m. there is a free sto-

rytime hour. Special events for Father's Day weekend (Saturday and Sunday, June 17 & 18) include "receiving 50% off our Triple Crown Experience which is: a Walk-Thru Adventure, Drive-Thru Adventure, and entry to our Museum of Prehistoric Life. We will also have special activities for children to enjoy on Saturday! Season passes that are sold this weekend will also include a 20% off discount!" On July 1 there will be a Kangaroo Kickback event from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. From their webpage (aikmanwildlife.com) "This event includes a fun, carnival style setting with food and different carnival games!"

MOULTRIE COUNTY HISTORY CENTER

Looks like these sessions are taking place on June 20 and 21. Cost is \$10 and you need to bring a tablet or laptop. From their facebook page:

"Calling all family history enthusiasts! Have you ever wanted to embark on an exciting journey into your family's past? Look no further: Join our exclusive FamilySearch 101 class and unlock the secrets of your ancestry. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced researcher, this course is tailored just for you. Here's why you should sign up:

- Discover your roots: Unearth captivating stories, long-

lost relatives, and fascinating connections that will leave you in awe.

- Expert guidance: Our knowledgeable instructors will walk you through the fundamentals of using the powerful FamilySearch platform, making your genealogy journey a breeze.

- Unleash your detective skills: Learn the art of conducting efficient searches, deciphering historical records, and breaking down brick walls that stand in your way.

- Connect with others: Engage with a vibrant community of fellow genealogists, exchange tips and tricks, and collaborate on exciting family history projects.

- Preserve your heritage: By delving into your family's past, you become a guardian of their legacy, ensuring their stories and traditions are cherished for generations to come.

Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to delve into the enchanting world of family history. Sign up for our FamilySearch 101 class today and let the adventure begin!"

ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

Summer event at the ALPLM includes (from the website, presidentlincoln.illinois.gov) "Summer brings new opportunities to meet President Lincoln and enjoy live music at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. Starting June 2, historic interpreters portraying Abraham Lincoln, **See TOWN TALK on page 3**

SBL Providing Physicals to Arthur Athletes

Sarah Bush Lincoln will provide sports physicals to athletes from Arthur schools.

Sports physical clinics will be held from 9 am to noon, and 1 to 4 pm, on Tuesday, July 11, at the SBL Arthur Clinic, 211 South Walnut Street, Arthur.

The cost is \$20 per physical with all fees being donated to the Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond Athletic Booster Club. Appointments are required and can be made by calling 217-543-3444.

Arthur History Fact #54

The Great Bank Robbery of 1899

Part 2

The armed bandits were now standing in front of a Hall time-lock "burglar-proof" safe in no time.

The safe had a 4" thick steel door and a money chest inside with 2½" thick walls.

Just then, a young German fellow, who had come to visit his cousin came to town. His cousin's family was sick and he had come to find a doctor. Thinking the two bandits who were standing outside the bank as lookouts were night watchmen, he asked them where he could find the residence of the town's doctor.

"Right in here," remarked one of the bandits and, to his amazement, the young man found himself looking into the muzzles of two large revolvers.

The robbers placed the young man on the floor and compelled him to remove his shoes. They searched his pockets, but took neither his money nor his watch.

To be continued...



MANNEQUINS

Background: Shady Crest Market, Arthur, Illinois

by Don S. Chambers



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