

Zion News

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

If you think about the beginnings of this community, or most any other community around, the role of the churches is obvious. Church was the spiritual, but also the social foundation of the community. Sunday was a day when people came together to worship and to enjoy fellowship with one another.

The habit then was to go to church.

The Lincoln Street Christian Church was loosely organized in 1871, almost two years before Arthur was founded. In 1894 the congregation built a very pretty church on the northeast corner of Lincoln and Pine Streets. It is one of only a rare few local churches that disbanded - its members going to other local churches in the 1940's.

The church was demolished, but its blocks were re-used to build at the same location an American Legion Hall that continued to serve the community until 1996 when it, too, was torn down.

The Vine Street Christian Church was organized in 1881 and built its first church in 1883.

The First Baptist Church organized in 1885 and built its first church in 1889.

The United Methodist Church, the last church to worship at the Village-owned Union Church, organized in 1893 and built its first church in 1899.

These early churches, and the others that followed, helped provide community awareness, cohesiveness, involvement, and public service to the community at large and to individual residents.

The members of church congregations founded businesses, industries, schools, parks, libraries, fire departments, nursing care facilities, and service organizations. These churches encouraged one another to do big things.

16th century theologian Martin Luther said, "Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree." This kind of optimism is exactly the legacy local churches have left for this community and for communities throughout our nation.

Hopefully, this is the kind of legacy we will leave for future generations.

August Birthdays: Aug 9-Peyton Chapman, Aug 12-Brett Grant, Aug 14-Rob Randall, Aug 16-Howard Kamm, Aug 17-Bruce Romine, Aug 19-Toby & Tyler White, Aug 22-Tony Chapman, Aug 25-Marcia Hackett, Aug 26-Vera Mae Brinkley, Aug 30-Rev. Kenneth Roedder.

August Anniversaries: Aug 6-Tony & Alana Chapman, Aug 23-Shawn & Kim Robinson, Aug 31-Chris & Cheryl Harris.

Zion's Sunday worship service begins at 9:00 AM. This coming Sunday Rev. Kenneth Roedder will be our guest pastor. The scripture will be Matthew 14:13-21 and his sermon title is "A Miracle Story." Everyone is welcome.

FARMERS

Considering retiring, downsizing, or changing careers? We are a centennial family farm with over 90 years combined experience looking to expand so the 4th generation can start farming. If you would like to help a young farmer get started farming, we would like to talk to you.

Contact

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Arthur History Fact #61

1894

Lincoln Street Christian Church

On September 25, 1871, a Christian Church was organized by Ed. A. Harshberger.

At first services were infrequent, but by 1881 regular services were being held at the Union Church until their own church was completed in 1894 on the northeast corner of Lincoln and Pine Streets.

The members of the Lincoln Street Christian Church eventually merged with other churches in town and the building was demolished in the 1940's.

The blocks of the structure, however, were re-used to build the American Legion Hall at that same location.

That building was used by the Legion and by the community as a youth center, pre-school, for church services, and as a meeting place for the Arthur Boy Scouts until 1996 when it was finally demolished as well.

Hostetler family reunion held; Schrock earns Eagle Scout rank

MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET

Had a busy weekend which began with a return trip to the Little Theatre on Friday night to see this show again. About half of Arthur was there too. We saw many we all knew and all agreed this production had to be one of the best we've ever seen at the theatre in the cornfields. So fortunate to have this available to us. As entertainers those folks on the stage have to be very gratified knowing how much fun they were bringing into so many lives. But I guess that's all part of why they do what they do.

HOSTETLER REUNION

Spent a big part of Saturday at the Arthur Christian School attending the Hostetler reunion. My sister-in-law's grandmother was a Hostetler and she had asked me to go, which I was happy to do. Really enjoyed learning about the family and even though I am not related I think I knew about as many people out there as most others did. Many of the local Amish asked me if I was there to write for the paper so it was kind of gratifying to know that they know I do this and that they actually do read this column. And I did find relatives of my own but only through the Honn side of the family. It was an interesting day and a couple of the sessions were particularly fascinating. TV actress Katey Sagal could be seen on video as she traced her roots on the show, "Who Do You Think You Are." Her mother died when Sagal was fairly young and it was quite touching to watch her learn so much about her mother's family and trace it back to Jacob Hostetler. She was quite intrigued to learn she was Amish! Another session featured the speaker sharing stories about one branch of the family that were, let's just say, quite surprising. Also found all the Lovington connections to be particularly interesting. Lots of books and

Town Talk

By Marty Yeakel

literature about this family and the Amish culture in general are available.

ALAH SPORTS

Spent Sunday afternoon at Parkland watching our volleyball Knights team play some tough competition and much bigger schools. Made for some very good experience for the team for the upcoming season. But it also reminded me that I forgot to mention last week that our ALAH Knights girls team program fared quite well in the News-Gazette's annual wrap up of schools with the combined volleyball, basketball and softball tying for second best in the area. Impressive especially since other schools had soccer to add into that ranking and we don't have a girls soccer team, only co-ed. Congratulations to our Knights as they get ready and we look forward to the fall sports season which will be starting soon. Go Knights!

MORE IMPROVEMENTS AND A THANK YOU

Along with all the other projects the latest are the improvements being made to the baseball field in Lovington. Know that drainage on that field has been an issue so this work should make the field more usable for our team. And while we're at it, a big thanks to our communities for stepping up and providing some

much needed supplies for our ALAH fine arts program. Band boosters put a notice out there regarding some things needed for band camp this week and people came through big time! Know they were very pleased and all of you should be proud of your support for our kids. Hope the band members have a great week at camp. Thank you again to all!

ANOTHER EAGLE SCOUT

Nolan Schrock, son of Kenny and Melissa Schrock and a 2023 graduate of ALAH accomplished another goal recently when he earned his Eagle Scout rank with our local Boy Scout Troop #74. Always an important achievement and it takes a lot of work to reach that goal. His Court of Honor will be this Saturday at the Arthur United Methodist Church. Delano always sat on the Board of Review when a Scout was in line for something like this and I told Melissa he would have enjoyed being able to be part of Nolan's Eagle Scout. She told me she thought of Delano when Nolan was going before the Board. It was a real honor for Delano too to be a part of local Scouting and our youth. Congratulations to Nolan and his family on your Eagle Scout rank!

JOHN MCCLAREY

I have written about Mr. McClarey before. He is the father

of Stephen McClarey who has taught music in our school system for many years now. John McClarey is a famous sculptor whose work appears all over the world. Most often his subject is Abraham Lincoln. A couple of years ago I shared this information from Steve about his dad: "John McClarey is a well known sculptor and artist who now lives in Decatur. He taught history and sociology in Cerro Gordo and Edinburg for many years. From his online bio: "His pieces can be found at the AL-PLM in Springfield, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Library of Congress in Washington and other locations throughout the world. His bust of Lincoln entitled "Prairie Lawyer," is on display at the Illinois State Supreme Court. Among many other awards, in 2009 he received the state of Illinois' highest honor, the Order of Lincoln Award, presented by the Lincoln Academy of Illinois." On Sunday, July 23, 2023 Mr. McClarey's final life size sculpture of Abraham Lincoln was dedicated on the town square in Mt Pulaski. Congratulations once again to Mr. McClarey for this and his amazing body of work involving Lincoln.

PARTNERS IN PRODUCE

The latest from this very worthwhile effort. "Just in case you're wondering...Partners In Produce is alive and kicking tail this year. So far over 33,000 pounds of produce have been donated to 41 different food pantries and feeding sites. Sometimes we might think we

See TOWN TALK on page 3

MANNEQUINS

Background: E-Z Trail farm wagons, Arthur, Illinois

by Don S Chambers

A person without a sense of humor is like a wagon without springs. It's jolted by every pebble on the road.

-Henry Ward Beecher



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