

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2020

CUSTER COUNTY, ARNOLD, NEBRASKA 69120

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Courtesy photo

The Coleman brothers (from left) Daniel, Jeremiah and Josiah were among several volunteers helping pack shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child at the Baptist Church in November. These volunteers were desperately needed this year due to the pandemic and cancellation of the community-wide packing party that is normally held at the school.

OCC Shoe Box Project Detoured Due to Pandemic

Volunteers pack a record number of boxes

By Melody Jennings
Community Project Leader

Without a doubt Covid 19 has affected all of our lives this year and the Annual Community Packing Party for Operation Christmas Child was no exception to its influence. To minimize risk to students, the party

was moved from the school gym to the Fellowship Hall of the Arnold Baptist Church. The format was changed from a one day event to a two week time-frame to allow families and individuals the freedom to drop in whenever it was convenient for them to fill shoeboxes, and this worked well for many.

The party started out great. The Matthew Coleman and Edward Johnson children folded the first 200 boxes to get things rolling. Sunday after church and through the afternoon, several families packed shoeboxes. On Monday Diane Sanford stopped in and filled 60 boxes. The Monday night Bible study

group packed more, and by Monday evening there were over 300 boxes packed, stacked and ready to go.

On Tuesday I tested positive for COVID, so that was the end of the party for us as we were isolated at home. Following the Health Department recommendations, the church was locked to allow for cleaning and disinfecting before being opened again on Saturday.

Many volunteers stepped forward to be at the church to help people, packing boxes and keeping the tables restocked with supplies. As we ran out of things, we'd post on Facebook what we needed and people generously shopped and dropped off supplies all during the second week. It was really amazing to watch it all happen from a distance and it simply would not have happened if it weren't for all those who stepped forward to help.

One young lady decided that rather than receiving gifts from Santa this year, she wanted to be Santa for other

children so she brought her "Santa money" to the church to help buy things. Her unselfish gift provided some adorable teddy bears and puppies for several children who will be thrilled when they open their boxes!

On Sunday night, Brent Garrison, Lisa Nelson, Lori Stutzman, the Gregg Tickle family and the Ed Johnson family all came to help us pack the boxes into cartons and get them loaded on the trailer. That's a huge job, and we were thankful for the strong young people willing to help.

On Monday morning, Glen Weinman took the trailer to North Platte, where the cartons were recounted and loaded onto pallets for shipping. When it was all finished, Arnold people filled 958 boxes this year which is our all-time high. Also - a first this year - Tiff Varney stepped forward and volunteered to pay the shipping costs for all the boxes from his late

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Christmas Around Town Set for Dec. 9

Santa's visit - live reindeer - special appearances by Buddy the Elf and The Grinch and hayrack rides will be drawing residents from near and far to the annual Chamber-sponsored Christmas Around Town on Wednesday, December 9. Due to the pandemic, the annual supper will not be held and everything will be moved downtown to Koubek Gardens, which, if all goes well, will be decorated for the holiday season.

Businesses will be offering specials and drawings, and some will be offering extended hours. Details on the day's

events can be found on page 8 of this issue.

The Chamber Bucks promotion began on Friday, November 27, and will continue to Friday, December 18. Drawings for 15 \$20.00 winners will be held on December 4, 11 and 18 at 2:00 p.m. at Pinnacle Bank. Anyone can enter by making a \$10.00 or more purchase at participating businesses. Tickets may be deposited at the business if a container is provided or under the Christmas tree at Pinnacle Bank.

Good luck and we encourage you to shop at home!

Historical Marker Placed at Former Zion Lutheran Church



Courtesy photo

(From left) Pastor Ben Eickhoff, Bev and Doug Engleman, Lyle Suhr, Earl Dailey, Don Dailey, Janis and Bob Blevins line up beside the new historical marker placed on the sign at the former Zion Lutheran Church. The church closed in January, 2020, and the property is now owned by Arnold Public Schools.

Historical markers continue to be placed on buildings in Arnold. A project of Arnold Rotary, Berni Crow has compiled the information for the signs. This week we feature Zion Lutheran Church. The marker reads as follows:

Zion Lutheran Church – 1935

Lutheran mission activities began in the Arnold area in the late 1930's when Pastor E. W. Bellman of Sumner, Nebraska canvassed the town and felt that it warranted the beginning of services in Arnold. On December 15, 1935, the first serv-

ices were held with 45 in attendance. Worship services were held by Pastor Bellman preaching bi-weekly in Arnold, baptizing twelve people, and confirming four, for over three more years, until he departed to serve in another part of the state. Al Saeger of North Platte then offered services for a few months. In 1939, Herbert Froelich was assigned to serve the mission congregation. Regular services were held in the afternoons at the Christian Church - which later became the Community Center. In 1942, a constitution was drawn up and application made for membership in the Missouri Synod. With membership

granted, the congregation resolved to call, in conjunction with the congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church of Callaway, a permanent pastor and to extend this call to Candidate Froelich, who was then installed as the first pastor of Zion Lutheran Church. Charter members included: Theodore Kutsch, J.O. Engleman, Ralph Halouska, Arthur Yarrington, and Henry and Emil Uphoff. Froelich continued to serve about 25 communicants until 1945. During the early years, the congregation worshipped in the Christian Church, sometimes in the afternoon and sometimes in the

evening, until 1965. The present church was dedicated on February 7, 1965 and has been in use up to the early days of 2020. The congregation has, through its years, been served in connection with Trinity of Callaway, Immanuel of Merna, and Trinity of Thedford. During the years of Zion's existence, many Pastors (P), Vicars (V), and Vacancy Pastors (VP) have served here. They are as follows: E. W. Bellman (P 1935-1939), Al Saeger (VP few months), Herbert Froelich (P 1942-1946), D. E. Luebke (VP), N. L. Bultman (P 1946-1949), D. E. Luebke (VP), O. E. Pittack (VP), L. E. Vogel (V 1951-1952), E. L. Wittenburg (VP), Carl Pull-

man (V 1953-1955), Wm. A. Chellew (V 1955-1956), H.L. Bernthal (P 1956-1959), E. Feyerheham (VP), R. A. Beckman (P 1960-1965), Charles Piazza (P 1965-1966), A. W. Looock (VP), A. H. Rosenkotter (1966-1969 Lay Assistant Pastor), E. W. Brewer (VP), Carl Wolf (P 1969-1973), Stan Ostgren (P 1973-1981), Robert Finch (P 1981-1982), Leonard Davis (P 1982-1983), Robert Finch (VP), Ben Eickhoff (P 1985-2020 Closing). During the time that N. L. Bultman served, they were finally able to switch to morning services. Lay Pastor Arthur Rosenkotter was installed at Zion Lutheran Church in Arnold, December 1966 and left June of 1969 to go into administration work in nursing homes. Ground breaking ceremonies for a new church, to be placed east of the Arnold School playground, were held on August, 1964. Rev. Roy Bechman, Tim Turley, Dorace Harberts and Joe Halouska were members of the building committee. During Arthur Rosenkotters' pastorage, the 25th anniversary of the church was celebrated on October 22, 1967; a new out-of-doors bulletin board sign was given as a memorial to Arthur Uphoff and was dedicated to the Lord's work. After E. W. Brewer of Ravenna served the vacancy for five months in 1969, Pastor Carl Wolf of North Platte came out of retirement to serve from December 1969 to January 1973. He served faithfully, driving from North Platte to serve the congregation. From January 10, 1973 to June 1981, Lay Pastor Stan Ostgren served both the Zion Church in Arnold and Trinity Lutheran Church of Thedford. In over eight years of stability, Zion showed considerable growth. With the expertise of "Stan", and the need for more space, the congregation built an addition to the church by 1977. It consisted of a combination fellowship hall and Sunday School rooms, a kitchen, and bathrooms. On July 26, 1981, Lay Pastor Robert Finch was in-

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