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# *The Zion Herald*

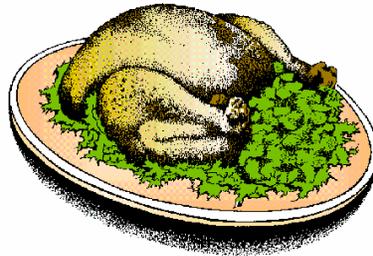
*“Proclaiming Zion’s Good News”*

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Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

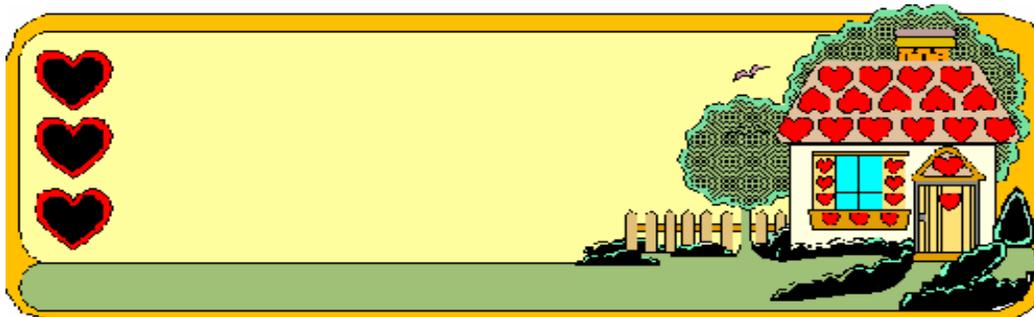
January, 2004

*Zion’s front page news...*



## **ZION’S GENEROSITY SHINES THROUGH ONCE AGAIN!!!**

**Because of your generosity, your food pantry was able to provide complete turkey dinners to 45 local families, all 32 Siffrin group homes in Stark County, the residents of our parsonage and Bruce and Richard Findlay’s group home. Besides providing turkey dinners, Zion’s food pantry served 375 people during the month of November. What an incredible outreach!**



*For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, Matthew 25:35*

## From the Pastor...

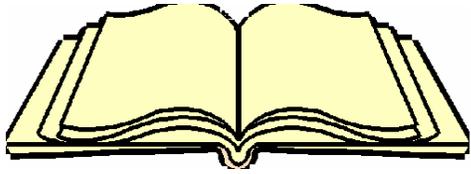
We have much to look forward to with the arrival of the new year; but before we begin thinking about the challenges that lie ahead, let's linger a bit longer on the themes that arise with Christmas – God's gifts, our blessings, and the overflow of gratitude that accompanies our post-Christmas glow. There are so many reasons to give thanks that it is difficult to know where to begin. What a wonderful Advent season we enjoyed! What marvelous support you offered! Our Advent wreaths and daily devotional guides added a great touch to the First Sunday in Advent. The many talents of our exceptionally gifted members (and our friends at St. Paul's) with Lessons & Carols on the Second Sunday in Advent helped us reach new heights with these evening devotional services. The children of Zion offered an outstanding effort with their Christmas Program; and the youth of Zion followed suit by adding their own version of an "electric" Christmas to the blessings of the season.

Prior to our strong Advent was a powerful Thanksgiving Eve, when our sanctuary was filled with our North Canton neighbors for a Community Service. The music, the choir, great attendance and delicious treats: it was a splendid evening. And how about the celebration of our Homecoming at Zion on the Festival of Christ the King Sunday, what a turnout! It was encouraging to see some of the familiar faces that made such an enduring contribution to Zion's long and storied past. Zion's Senior Choir, our Sunday School youth choir, Dale's world-famous cinnamon rolls during the reception, Chuck's world class video during the program: what a day! There are so many persons to thank. A make-shift outreach committee that worked so hard, the music ministry that chipped in with their best, and our many members who made sure to get the word out and our visitors in: a round of thanks to all.

In last month's *Zion Herald* I had hoped that we might continue the strong showings we had enjoyed in October through November and into December. We did all that and more. Again, average weekly attendance at worship continued to hover above that 190 level. Support for the Sunday evening Advent services improved markedly upon last year's great beginning. I think we have found a new tradition worth building on with our Homecoming Sunday. (Next year is Zion's 190<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which adds even more impetus to continue the momentum.) It feels great to see that we are finishing the year in strong fashion. Outreach and service, in-reach and fellowship: your support has been outstanding. The church has enjoyed some great moments during 2003. May we sustain the progress we've made by offering our time, our talents, and our treasures even more generously as next year's needs and opportunities arise.

As we move into 2004, we do well to remember that last January and February got the better of us budget-wise. We ran into a slew of weather-related expenses that covered us both with white snow and red ink. Expenses zoomed past income, with deficits that consumed our short-lived surpluses, and kept us doing our best to keep afloat the remainder of the year. We've had a good year in terms of congregational giving. I offer this look back at January 2003 to encourage you to sustain your generosity through December into January of 2004. That will make a world of difference as we encounter the winter months, going boldly where our Lord leads with confidence in God's ability to accomplish His will in us and through us.

In His service, and yours,  
Pastor Sherwindt



### CHECK OUT ZION'S RESOURCE CENTER!

The Resource Center is for you!! If you think it only contains Bibles, you haven't really looked it over. Yes, there are Bibles as well as many religious books (including Luther's sermons), inspirational books, children's books, videos and even a computer. January's featured books are:

#### *The American Heart Association Kids' Cookbook*

Nutty Pineapple Nibbles to Festive Peas or Top Hat Pizza. This book not only teaches kids to cook, but also how to plan menus and shop for ingredients. Nutrient analyses are included for each recipe in a separate section before the index.

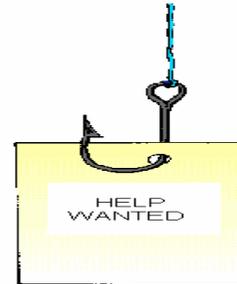
#### *After School Arts and Crafts Activities*

This book includes great ideas and crafts to keep your children occupied during summer break, sick days or holiday breaks. Most of the supplies needed are household items you'll easily have on hand. Choose projects from six different chapters including: Awesome Art Activities, Cool Crafts, Games, Celebrations, Imagination Station and Nature in the Neighborhood.

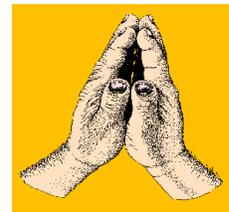
## THANK-YOU

A great big thank you for everyone who helped us celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. Thank you for all your cards and good wishes. We are truly blessed to have such a great and loving family.

Ed & Marian



A concerned, caring volunteer is needed to print guest, anniversary, senior birthday and get well cards. These cards are printed through a CD on the second office computer. The church provides the ink, paper, envelopes and stamps. Everyone is welcome to apply! No computer experience?! No problem! This is a very easy program to use and training will be provided. The past "job" holder is giving up the position due to future increased parental responsibilities. Interested? Please contact the church office **before** the end of January!



### **Please don't leave the Prayer Chain with a weak link!**

The Zion Prayer Chain members are always happy to pray for all of Zion's members, families and friends. However, please keep Ruth informed as to the status of friends and family members who do not attend Zion. Once these individuals are put on the Prayer Chain, Ruth has no idea of the outcome of medical tests, diagnoses or healing. If she has not heard from you, after awhile, she will remove the name from the list assuming that God's healing power has triumphed again! Thank you in advance for your assistance.

### 2003 FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Please have all 2003 financial contributions into the church office by no later than 12 Noon, Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>. Contributions must be received by that date in order to be included in the 2003 financial statements. Thank you!



### DON'T FORGET!!!

January is the start of Zion Food Pantry's "Food of the Month Club". It is a very easy club to belong to. There are no sign up fees or monthly dues. You do not have to show a card with which to participate, and every member of your family can enjoy the warmth of belonging. We have no late fees and no restrictions on quantity. Then you may ask "What is the catch?" We have two rules: quality is more important than quantity, and if you wouldn't eat it do not expect someone else to. We would like to start January off with **Jelly**. Please keep in mind when purchasing the jelly that it will likely be used on a child's sandwich. Suggested flavors are: strawberry, raspberry or grape.

Shirley & Margaret

### FACTS TO PONDER

13 million children in the United States are undernourished.

Americans spend 50 times as much on fast food than on helping poor children, the Barna Research Group reports. Those surveyed spent an average of \$240 a year on fast food and \$5 a year to help poor children. During the last year, half of those surveyed didn't donate anything. Six in ten said it's the responsibility of poor children's parents and governments to end poverty.

Facts taken from *The Lutheran* November 2003.

### ZION SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

We would like to thank the children and their parents for all of their time and hard work during the Christmas Program this year. The program was called "Greeting from the Heart" and portrayed the Christmas Story as we know it through living Christmas cards! The program was a great success – the kids were absolutely outstanding and worked so hard! The program included all age groups, from Pre-school through High School, and even a few adults! Thank you to our "mom" - Connie, and "grandma" – Janet who led each card. There are also many thanks to those behind the scenes that were crucial to the program's success:

Melissa – participating in the program, costumes, and directing the children  
 Renee – costumes and directing the children  
 Ann – cookies, costumes and directing the children  
 Dave and Cindy – sound, costumes and directing the children

Courlene – cookies, costumes and directing the children

Vicki– cookies and scenery

Sharon – costumes and directing the children

Suzanne – cookies

Cindy – costumes and directing the children

Rich and Karen - costumes and directing the children

We also want to thank Carol for her wonderful artwork – the scenery was beautiful. Carol – thank you so much for all your help with any of the art projects we've thrown at you! We are so grateful to you!

A big thank you also to Doug for building our set! The frame was a perfect setting for every card.

Everyone did so much to help, and we apologize if we missed anyone. We are truly grateful that we have such a wonderful group of kids and parents that make our program such a success!

As we look forward to the New Year, we have some great lessons planned on the Beatitudes and “love” that will include some service projects. We will also continue the children’s choir during the Sunday School hour. We look forward to seeing all of the children’s bright, smiling faces at Sunday School!

Again, thank you from the bottom of our hearts to the children and everyone who helped with this year’s Christmas Program, and for our beautiful gifts!

Debbie and Lisa

## 2004 ZION YOUTH NEWS

Caroling around the crèche, followed by an electric Christmas in Luther Hall, and a soft landing by the fireplace in the beautiful West Knoll Room: these are a few of our favorite things as we think about the Christmas season. The Fourth Sunday in Advent was an opportunity for our youth to shine as they took their turn at hosting one of our evening devotional services. They responded with great imagination, delicious food, and a church prepared to celebrate the birth of Christ on Christmas Eve. Our thanks to all of Zion’s Youth, to their parents, for their support, and to our youth leaders for their dedication and service.

## WINTER GATHERING

The next BIG EVENT for Zion’s Youth focuses on the Winter Gathering, scheduled for the weekend of January 2—4, 2004. The theme is “Eyes on the Prize”, and we look forward to a fabulous weekend of great entertainment, valuable workshops, new friendships and old-fashioned fun. Zion has a strong contingent of eleven youth and four adults; but there is always room for one more. Please see Wayne, Karen, Patsy, or Adam with your interest in joining our group for this very worthwhile event.



visit Melanie while she's in Mecklenburg, but maybe we can take her with us next year.

## **BIBLE BOWL**

With the arrival of the New Year, the Bible Bowl can't be far off. This year takes a close look at selected stories from the Book of Genesis. The program is designed for persons in grades 6 through 12, and our Bible Bowl coaches Wayne and Todd are eager to have you on board for the Canton-Massillon Conference Bible Bowl in February and the Synod Finals in March. It'll be great fun, and you'll learn a lot, too ... maybe. But even if you don't learn a lot, it'll be great fun. Join Wayne and Todd in the youth room on Sunday mornings.

## **MECKLENBURG MISSION TRIP**

The Mecklenburg Mission Trip has been pushed back to 2005. We received substantial interest; but when it became apparent that we were traveling in March, we found that parents needed more time to figure out what to do with their kids missing school. It's true, going to Germany is a great educational experience; but this March might have been a bit too soon. Plus, we thought we needed more lead time to plan the fundraising that would be necessary to make this Mission Trip affordable. We have begun planning the first fundraiser, a Craft Show at Zion scheduled for March 20, 2004. If all goes well, we'll plan another one for November. Plus, we're thinking about rummage sales, car washes and service auctions. We hope that more of us will be able to go as we look ahead to 2005. What could be more worthwhile than walking in Luther's footsteps in Wittenberg, offering our service to new-found partners in Mecklenburg, enjoying the hospitality of host families, with the added extra of visiting a beautiful part of the German countryside?! We will miss not being able to

