
The Zion Herald

“Proclaiming Zion’s Good News”

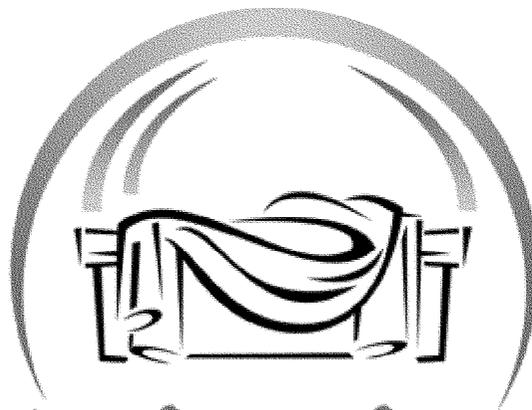
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

April, 2004

Why Do You Seek the Living among the Dead?

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HE IS NOT HERE;



He is Risen

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Dear members and friends of Zion,

The eyes of the world now turn to the Cross, the Empty Tomb, and the proclamation of the Good News. Holy Week arrives April 4th with Palm Sunday. Our Lenten journey has brought us through a series of *Conversations Overheard from the Cross*, each offering a new perspective on what the events leading to the Passion of Christ meant then, and what they mean now. We listened and learned, as Caiaphas and Barabbas, Pontius Pilate and his wife, Simon of Cyrene and the Roman Centurion invited us to take up such questions as who is this Jesus whom Christians call Lord? What does the Cross have to do with his mission, and what does it have to do with ours?

With the arrival of **PALM SUNDAY**, the mood quickly turns from joyous celebration to gathering gloom. The betrayal of **MAUNDY THURSDAY**, the tortuous death on **GOOD FRIDAY**, empty hearts on **HOLY SATURDAY**, and the Empty Tomb on **EASTER MORN**: what does it all mean? We invite you to join us at worship at any of our ten Holy Week services. Saturday, April 3rd, is a typical Palms to Passion service, with our two services on Palm Sunday devoted to our Children's Easter Pageant. Two services on Maundy Thursday focus on the healing that comes from Christ's love for us. Two services on Good Friday focus on the heart of our faith, the very soul of Christianity: Stations of the Cross in North Canton at Noon; our Good Friday Tenebrae in the evening at Zion. A special look at the passion on Saturday evening leads to two glorious celebrations of Easter Festival Worship on Sunday.

Palm Saturday	April 3, 2004	5:00 p.m.	Our <i>Palms to Passion</i> Transition
Palm Sunday	April 4, 2004	8:00 a.m.	Sunday School Easter Play:
		10:30 a.m.	<i>The Easter that Almost Wasn't!</i>
Maundy Thursday	April 8, 2004	12:00 p.m.	Quiet Communion at Zion
		7:00 p.m.	Communion with <i>The Ragman</i>
Good Friday	April 9, 2004	12:00 p.m.	Community Stations of the Cross
		7:30 p.m.	Good Friday Tenebrae at Zion
Holy Saturday	April 10, 2004	5:00 p.m.	"Behold! I Am With You!"
Easter Sunday	April 11, 2004	8:00 a.m.	Easter Festival Worship
		9:15 a.m.	Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt
		10:30 a.m.	Easter Festival Worship

There can be no doubt that Holy Week is the climax of Jesus' mission, the crux of his message, the core of what Christianity is all about. Join us as we complete our Lenten journey with Holy Week worship. You'll be glad you did. Your faith will grow. Your spirits will soar. I look forward to seeing you here at Zion.

In His service, and yours,
[Pastor Sherwindt](#)

HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

The North Canton Ministerial Association

The North Canton Ministerial Association is pleased to offer the following scholarship to a graduating high school senior. We offer this in recognition of God's challenge to us to "use the best of our minds, hearts and souls" in service to others.

This is a \$500.00 non-renewable scholarship for a graduating high school senior, who has been an active member for the past two years in one of our member congregations or service agencies, which include Community Christian Church, Congregational United Church of Christ, Faith United Methodist Church, Grace United Methodist Church, Greentown United Methodist Church, Heather Ridge Commons, Mt. Pleasant Church of the Brethren, Northminster Presbyterian Church, St. Luke Lutheran Community, St. Paul's Catholic Church, Trinity Baptist Church, Zion Lutheran Church, and Zion United Church of Christ.

Applicants will find applications in the Church Office. We are looking for applicants with demonstrated leadership and spiritual maturity in their Church, School, and Community. You will be asked to write an essay (no more than three pages) covering your church involvement and activities, your faith journey, and your goals for the future. You should have a grade point of 2.5 or higher (a high school transcript will need to be provided). Letters of recommendation should be provided from the Pastor, another congregational leader, and one of your teachers. **THE APPLICATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 9, 2004.**

Mail (or deliver) your application to: Thomas L. Douce, Secretary, North Canton Ministerial Association, 6000 Frank Ave NW, North Canton, OH 44720-7599. Finalists will be interviewed by the Scholarship Committee of the North Canton Ministerial Association to determine the recipient. The recipient will be notified by mail and recognized at their High School Senior Recognition Ceremony. See Pastor Sherwindt with any questions you might have. Above all, show interest and apply.

MORE NORTH CANTON MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION NEWS: April 9th is also Good Friday, and our North Canton congregations are invited to meet at Zion United Church of Christ at Noon for an Ecumenical Stations of the Cross service, which takes place outside in downtown North Canton at the corner of Maple and Main. Please make it a point to attend.

EVEN MORE NORTH CANTON MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION NEWS: How about creating a Co-ed Softball League for our North Canton congregations? All signs are good for moving ahead with a full-fledged league starting this summer. Zion UCC experimented with this idea during August of last summer, and the experience was a lot of fun, encouraging us to take the next step. An organizational meeting is planned for Monday, March 29th, 7:00 p.m., at Zion UCC. Please see Bob Lancashire and Todd Elsass with your interest in fielding a team from Zion Lutheran Church.

THE YOUTH OF ZION

The 2004 edition of the Northeastern Ohio Synod Bible Bowl was another astounding success for the Youth and Youth Leaders of Zion Lutheran Church. Our thanks to coaches Wayne Slease and Todd Elsass, and to this year's team: Ryan Elsass, Caroline Amatangelo, Matt Slease, Valerie Cizek, Todd Cizek, Becca Coulter and Chloe Horger. We are very proud of their effort and commitment. The congregation gathered between the services on Sunday, March 7, to honor the members of this year's team. Each team member was presented with a certificate of appreciation and free pass to a local movie theater of their choice. Everyone enjoyed a sheet cake baked especially for our Bible Bowlers, along with coffee and juice.

From the Bible Bowl, it was on to the Youth Lenten drama, presented on the Sunday evening of March 21. Our youth led a drama based on Luke's version of the Passion Narrative. Beth Gardner provided the music for a very different opening to worship and a festive beginning of spring.

Our 2004 Youth Missions CRAFT SHOW has received great support from the good people at Zion. 25 crafters, plus tables for rummage sale items, for food, snacks, and drinks: we thank you for your interest, and so much more. Zion's local service team of congregational volunteers working as a part of the East Stark County Chapter of *Thrivent Financial for Lutherans* have committed matching support of up to \$800 for our next Youth Mission Trip. We may not know where we're going, but we know that we'll be taking the love of Zion's church family with us wherever we go.

OUTREACH AT ZION

ZION'S FOOD PANTRY has made a small dent in the volunteer potential here at Zion. Are you afraid of the uncertain? Well, then, just ask Chuck Heller, Flo Jensen, Helen Ballentine, or my sister exactly what was involved when they volunteered at the Food Pantry. Lifting is an option; stocking is an option; passing out food is an option; but smiles are not.

We are open on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month. Volunteers are needed between 9:15 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. You can choose your time and duration. Plan on volunteering April 13th, when we will be hauling a ton or more of groceries back from the Akron/Canton Food Bank. If you wish to experience the 9:15 a.m. food run to the food bank, we have one seat open in the Chevy Suburban. Church Heller has already reserved his seat. Showing up at Zion around 10:30 a.m. is also an option.

APRIL'S ITEM OF THE MONTH IS *Shampoo* and *Bar Soap*. FYI: Sugar is still being sought as the food of the month for March. Thanks so much.

It is always best to serve,
than to be served.
Shirley and Margaret

A word of thanks from the **CLOTHING CLOSET**: Zion responded to our need for dressers! You are amazing. Some special clothing items of interest are men's white socks, men's pants (36x32, 36x34), baby clothes, maternity clothes (1X), a shower stool. We make sure that all of our items are clean and ready for use. Any help you can offer in this regard is appreciated.

THE WOMEN OF ZION

N.E.O.S.W.O. of the ELCA: that's the Northeastern Ohio Synod Women's Organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and their Cluster Board is preparing for the Annual Spring Retreat. This year's theme is *Biblical Stories and How They Grow Old to New and Beyond*. The Bible study leader will be the Rev. Dr. Larry Hough, Pastor, Martin Luther Lutheran Church, Canton. The date is Wednesday, April 28, 2004, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., with registration and coffee fellowship beginning at 9:00 a.m. The place is the North Canton Masonic Building, located at 805 Orchard, NE, here in North Canton. The event is the Canton-Massillon Cluster Spring Retreat. For lunch, the Lodge Auxiliary will prepare a Chicken Dinner.

The Registration and Luncheon Fee is \$7.50 per person, and the deadline is Friday, April 16. Make checks payable to N.E.O.S.W.O. We will be receiving an offering to be equally divided between the Synod and the Stark County Hunger Task Force. Baby booties, baby and youth quilts, receiving blankets and lap robes for area hospitals and nursing care facilities will again be collected. Please see Ruth Elsass with your questions and interest.

Please remember that the Women of Zion oversee many activities here at Zion. The Comfort Givers meet the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. We host a Women's Bible study on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. All women are invited to become active with the Chancel Guild. There is surely a place for you with the Women of the Church here at Zion.

THE MEN OF ZION

We may not have any special acronyms, but we will be meeting for a **FIRST TIME SPECIAL** on the evening of Wednesday, April 14th, 2004, in order to dedicate ourselves to becoming *Body Builders* at Zion. We will meet for dinner at 5:30 p.m. John Davis will help organize the menu, and will look for your cooperation in trying to create something new for Zion.

Also, we would like to thank the Men of Zion for their outstanding performance in getting our Lenten dinners started in style. Dale Jacobs turned up the heat on the chili, which complemented our sandwich tray, as we hosted a good group of worshippers, who gathered in our sanctuary to listen in on *A Conversation Overheard from the Cross between Caiaphas and Barabbas*. Pastor Sherwindt and Chuck Danner offered a compelling performance for our first Lenten drama of the season. We thank the congregation for your attendance, and our men for their valuable assistance.

April showers bring May flowers, and, in addition to the pilgrims, May flowers also announce the arrival of Mother's Day. That means a great opportunity for the Men of Zion to honor Zion's beloved women with a fabulous Mother's Day Breakfast. Let's get organized now, so that we can outdo the fine efforts we put together for last year's inaugural edition of what turned out to be a wonderful way to show how much we care for the women in our lives. **Mother's Day 2004 is May 16.**

The Men (and young men) of Zion may want to keep Monday evenings open, as the gym is a great place to gather for some pick-up basketball, every Monday at 7.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Zion's Congregational Meeting for the evening of Wednesday, March 3rd was rescheduled for Sunday, March 21st, between the worship services at 9:15 a.m. We enjoyed a delicious dinner and some uplifting fellowship; but we fell a couple members short of a quorum. We will finish with the official business of electing members for the Church Council, the Trustees and the Deacons on March 21st.

Our March Church Council meeting saw two seats change, with Carol Grandjean appointed to fill the remaining months of Lei Fahrner's term as Council Secretary, and Betty Taylor appointed to serve the remainder of Doug Roman's term as Social Outreach Elder. Carol Grandjean will now run for a full term as Council Secretary; her name will be submitted along with John Davis (Resource Ministry Elder) and Bob Lancashire (Parish Life Ministry Elder) at our Congregational Meeting on March 21st.

Shirley Cavender, Gary Horton, and Doug Nist are willing to serve as Trustees. The partial term of one position still needs to be filled. Mary Humbert and John Long are willing to serve as Deacons. Two more volunteers are needed, one full term position and one partial term position.

Our 2003 Parochial Report for the Northeastern Ohio Synod shows that Zion's membership grew last year. We received 35 new members. We lost 2 members through death, and 11 were transferred to other congregations. Zion's Total Membership now stands at 432 baptized members and 365 confirmed members.

MORE FINANCIAL FACTS

February was very kind to Zion. Income was up and expenses were down. We still wound up with a Current Expense Deficit of \$450 for the month; but that was below the deficit winter blew our way last year.

January and February are difficult months for most churches; but they were much better months for us in 2004 than what we experienced in 2003. We are still running a Current Account Deficit this year of \$3,379.⁰⁰; but all would agree this is quite an improvement over the \$7,261.⁸² deficit that we were facing last year at this time. We thank you for your attentiveness to our needs and for your generosity in giving.

We need March and April to be strong months for us in order to move us from the red (*year-to-date*) into the black. The good news of Easter holds out hope. All things are possible, with God's grace and God's help. But keep in mind that while winter is giving way to spring, we are facing the special expense of repairing the ceiling and floor in a Sunday School room that met with some serious water damage last year. Please do your best to help us stay current with these upcoming expenses.

FINANCES FOR FEBRUARY 2004

Feb: Operating Income:	17,771.00
Feb: Current Expenses:	18,221.00
Feb: Surplus/(Deficit):	(450.00)
YTD: Surplus/(Deficit):	(3,379.00)

The Holy Scriptures proclaim that God loves a cheerful giver; but the Church has decided to make cheerfulness optional!

MORE NEWS FROM ZION

Thank you for your support of our 2004 Bible Bowl team. We really appreciate the reception you organized in our honor. Thank you for the cake, gift certificates, and the fellowship you provided at our reception. We would also like to thank the people who came and supported us at the Bible Bowl competition. Your presence was appreciated. Thank you again for thinking of us!

Ryan Elsass
 Matt Slease
 Caroline Amatangelo
 Valerie Cizek
 Todd Cizek
 Chloe Horger
 Rebecca Coulter

Team Leaders: Todd Elsass, Wayne Slease

A **BIG THANK YOU** for everyone who put together the plans for our St. Patrick's Day Party. Thanks to the Fellowship Ministry that made the plans, prepared the food, organized the entertainment, and created an afternoon filled with great laughs, good fun, and the very best prizes. Thanks to the Elderberries who pitched in to help. Thanks to our senior members, and their friends, who joined in the fun. Thanks for giving us a reason — or an excuse! — to come together as a church family and enjoy the gifts of fellowship and friendship with which God has so richly blessed us. In the words of that famous *Irish Blessing*: "May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, and rains fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the hollow of His hand."

STILL MORE ZION NEWS

The **Saturday Evening Entertainment Group** enjoyed yet another wonderful meal and some good fellowship, this time at the *Beldon Village Bar and Grill*, formerly *Whispers*, located at the Holiday Inn at Beldon Village. We look forward to our next night out on the evening of Saturday, March 27th. If you are not sure where we're heading, join us for worship at 5:00 p.m., and then come along for the fun at 6:00 p.m. There are always more than enough cards and coupons for everyone. That's the fourth Saturday of the month, following the 5:00 p.m. service.

And, now, a moment to give thanks for:

April Senior Birthdays

April 8	Mary Brown
April 11	Helen Ballentine
April 21	Ruth Storch

Zion Anniversaries

April 4	James and Linda Beam
April 5	Robert and Susan Heyard
April 16	Clarence and Vicki Givler
April 20	Chris and Melanie Whalen
April 22	Rich and Deborah Weikel
April 26	Neal and Kathy Kodich

Dear friends at Zion,

Just a line to say "thank you" for the lovely flowers you gave me from Sunday morning worship.

Yours in Christ,
 Ruth Brigham

FELLOWSHIP HONOREE FOR APRIL: ELSIE EARLES

Elsie Earles became a faithful member of Zion back when Pastor Ruth and Pastor Hasselbach were here. She's a very petite friendly lady who usually attends the Early Sunday Service. She always sits in the aisle seat in the very last pew.

Elsie was born on a farm outside Zanesville, Ohio. Her father used horses to plow and work the fields on their 100-acre farm. At a very young age she learned to harness them and she even planted corn by hand, while using a jogger. As Ellis was raised on a farm, too, he could relate to all the work she did! Elsie's father also raised and delivered produce for regular customers in the small town of Corning, so he depended on her to help with the milking and chores, too.

When Elsie was eight years old, her mother died of pneumonia. A few years later her father married a widowed aunt, so she and her two sisters had a happy family life.

Evert Earles lived on the adjoining farm so they became good friends, although he was nine years her senior. After she graduated from high school they had their first date, and later were married in the preacher's home. They celebrated their 60th anniversary one February and a month later Elsie returned home from a church bowling match and found that he had died of a sudden heart attack. The Earles had two daughters, Shirley and Caroline, and one son, Richard. Elsie has four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

She still lives in the family home in North Canton and drives her car whenever necessary. She recalls that she learned her driving skills on a *Model T* and they didn't even need a driver's license then.

Elise still has many interests. She is an avid quilter, having made one for each of her family members. She also crochets afghans and sews. Her small hands are never idle! She can hardly wait for nice weather so she can work outside with all her flowers. Her favorite one is the rose — red, of course — because that's her favorite color, too!

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound is her favorite hymn, and the 23rd Psalm is her favorite chapter in the Bible. As a very young girl she routinely walked a mile to her church and a mile back, in all kinds of weather.

Elsie shared some lovely pictures with us. My favorite was taken when she was about nine years old standing up straight while riding her pony, only holding the reins to direct it!

Elsie and I had a lovely time, and I have found it very difficult to condense our conversation into this brief article. I encourage your to call and go visit this **Special Lady**.

Ellis and Anna Mae Le Beau

WORD FROM MELANIE, OUR MISSIONARY IN MECKLENBURG
NEWS ABOUT CHRIST-LIKE LOVE AND INWARD BEAUTY