

October 2004 Newsletter

Calling all parents! Calling all children!

It's time for our Communion Class. Zion is a church that offers Holy Communion to all the baptized. Children of all ages are invited to join their families in celebrating the gifts of God's grace that are shared with the bread and the wine of Holy Communion. This has been a recent change in the life of the Lutheran Church. The basic point is that all the baptized need the gifts of Christ's body and blood; and they are gifts of God's grace, not rewards for our learning.

Our response to this more open policy toward Holy Communion has been to take the time every October to offer instruction for children of all ages. Chuck Danner, an exceptional teacher and educator, has mastered the art of making connections between the meaning of the gift God gives with Holy Communion and children of all ages who eat and drink with Jesus. Curricula abound, and the materials we use have something to say to children as young as four and as old as eleven. There is coloring for the younger ones, history for the older ones, with puzzles and surprises for everyone in between.

This year's communion class begins Sunday October 3rd, and will run all the way through All Saints Sunday on November 7th, when the younger saints among us will celebrate Christ's invitation to come to the table with a little more knowledge and growing sense of awareness of what is going on with the celebration of Holy Communion. Kids can come to the class more than once. Learning about the meaning of what God has done through Christ and is doing for us now is a journey that involves a lifetime of growth in grace.

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- **DID YOU KNOW?** When Christianity began, it was Holy Communion that set Christians gathering in churches apart from Jews gathering in synagogues. Jews gathered to focus on the Word, the Bible, the Torah. Christians gathered to celebrate their communion with Christ through Holy Communion. It was their relationship with the Risen Lord and Living Christ that set them apart from their Jewish compatriots.
 - **HAVE YOU NOTICED?** There seems to be a weakening link with worship at Zion. It seems that learning about Jesus in Sunday School, or serving Christ through outreach has, at times, been taken to be a substitute for worship. Worship, service and education are each separate activities and distinct acts of faithfulness. All are important, but, as our confirmands are learning with their study of the 3rd Commandment, God is worthy of our worship and we are commanded to remember the Sabbath by honoring God with worship.
 - **HOW ABOUT THAT!** The connection between worship and our communion class is intentional. We want our children to connect worship, Christ's presence, and communion. There will be children's sermons every Sunday in October during the 10:30 a.m. service. Why not take another look at worshipping together as a family. Remembering the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy is about honoring God with the worship due Him.
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2004 Fall Craft Show

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23
FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.
IN LUTHER HALL, IN MEMORIAL HALL
AND JUST ABOUT ANYWHERE ELSE WE CAN THINK OF!**

This is what everyone's been waiting for, the FALL FOLLOW-UP to our SPRING SUCCESS. We had such a great experience in March that we decided that more of the same would be great fun for all. So, please plan on joining us for what will surely be a fabulous day here at Zion.

**CRAFTERS GALORE, WHITE ELEPHANTS
WITH LIGHT REFRESHMENTS SERVED
AND GERMAN TAKEOUT DINNERS
PREPARED BY ZION'S SINGING CHEF!**

The new dimension of this fall edition of the Craft Show is the inclusion of an OKTOBERFEST theme, which involves preparing German Takeout Dinners. Zion's Singing Chef promises an unforgettable delight. Bratwurst with sauerkraut and German potato salad, or Pork Schnitzel with spaetzle: these dinners will be delicious. At \$7.00 apiece, they will be great treats for your family, your friends, your neighbors, distant relatives, old acquaintances and whoever else loves great German food. The Youth of Zion are asking Zion's members to think of the needy as well as themselves. We are looking for Zion to donate 200 DINNERS FOR 200 DINERS in our effort to make sure that persons with special needs are able to enjoy this great food, too. So far, we have received 110 donated dinners, with pledges for many more. We're looking forward to a great October 23rd. Please make every effort to join us. You'll be glad you did, and so will we.

Great News From The ZION SUNDAY SCHOOL

Upcoming Events - Mark your calendars!

Sunday, October 3rd: Communion Class starts during 10:30 Service

Saturday, October 23rd: Youth Missions "Oktoberfest" Craft Show

Sunday, October 24th: Sunday School Choir sings at 10:30 a.m. Service

Saturday, October 30th: Halloween Party 5:30 p.m. in Luther Hall

September marked the beginning of our new curriculum: Witness. We started out with the story of Noah's Ark and then the story of God's Promise to Abraham and Sarah. The faith traits that were highlighted in September's lessons were OBEDIENCE (Noah was the example) and PATIENCE (Abraham and Sarah were the example). October will bring 3 lessons about Moses starting with him as a baby, a lesson about Joshua at Jericho and a lesson about Gideon. The faith traits that will be found in these lessons will be RESPONSIBILITY, BOLDNESS, THANKFULNESS, PERSEVERANCE, and OBEDIENCE. Each week a Bible figure in the lesson portrays one of these faith traits, and part of the lesson is teaching our children why these traits are important and how to use it in their lives.

The children's choir will also start practicing during Sunday School. They will practice from 9:10 am until 9:30 am each week. They will sing once a month at the 10:30 service (except in December and March due to the special holiday programs). A calendar showing the Sun-day 10:30 a.m. services they will sing at will be mailed to the parents once it is completed

Chuck Danner will be starting a Communion Class on Sunday, October 3rd. This class will take place during the 10:30 am Service for 5 weeks. The classes are available to all of our Sunday School children. There is also material for parents of our younger children who feel they may not be ready for Chuck's class that can be done at home as a family. Please see Chuck or Pastor Sherwindt if you are interested in either the class offered at church or the home materials.

The HALLOWEEN PARTY will be Saturday, October 30, from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Luther Hall. The children should wear their costumes and bring a pumpkin to paint. They are also welcome to bring a friend. There will be pizza, snacks, crafts, games and a kid-friendly haunted house done by Zion's older youth. We will send a flyer with all the details. If you are interested, please sign up in the church office.



Thank You's to Zion

Dear Members of Zion,

I would like to thank Pastor for his visits and prayers with my family and me during my surgery. Words cannot express all my thanks and gratefulness to everyone with your prayers and support.

God has blessed me with a great outcome following my recent surgery and has also blessed me with a great family at home and at Zion. May God's Peace be with you all.

Love and Prayers to all,

Darlene Milavickas

To our friends at Zion,

I want to express all of our thanks to Pastor Sherwindt for such a wonderfully planned memorial service remembering 9-11. All of us at Senior Independence thank you for the

way you addressed our feelings concerning lost loved ones and the many who lost their lives on September 11th.

Sincerely,
Susan Gans
Senior Independence

Dear Pastor Mark and our friends at Zion,

On behalf of the Canton-Massillon Cluster of the NEOSWO [Northeastern Ohio Synodical Women's Organization] ELCA Women, I would like to thank you for speaking about the Masealama Information Centre at our Fall Fellowship. [It should be noted in with their thanks came a check for \$330 in support for the work of Masealama and our Companion Synod Program.]

God's Blessings and Peace, Sandy Dodd, Treasurer
Canton-Massillon Cluster

Dear Members of Zion,

We would like to thank everyone for the cards and prayers, for the message Pastor gave at Wilbert's passing, and Edna and her crew for the good food. Again, thanks to all.

The Wilbert Givler family

Dear Members of Zion Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your monthly gift to LOMO, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio. We are grateful and humbled by your faithful stewardship of God's provision. Your prayers and gifts do make a difference! May God bless your congregation!

God's peace and joy to you,
Penny Christensen, Executive Director

Church Council News

Our entire Council was invited to read *The Purpose Driven Church*. As Fred Elsass observed after finding it impossible to put this book down, everyone who has been a leader in the church and everyone who is a leader in the church will find this book a must read. It's not a cure-all; but it is a great reminder that God can do the impossible ... if we will dream it, and not only dream it, but dream it together, and set ourselves on a course of action that will make it so. Rick Warren established Saddleback Church in Southern California. The key image in that part of the country is ride the wave; but before we can ride the wave, first we've got to find it. What is the wave that Zion can ride on our way to becoming a healthy and growing congregation?

Speaking about growth, we were happy to welcome two new members into the Zion church family: JEAN SCHECK, a fellow snowbird and Florida friend of Don and Shirley Hertler; DAVE PALUMBO, the husband of Renee (Smith) Palumbo, and son-in-law of Dick and Edna Smith

The Trustees have scheduled TWO WORK-DAYS IN OCTOBER, one on Sunday, October 3rd, and the other on Saturday, October 9th. On Sunday, October 3rd, Shirley Cavender will prepare pizza after worship for lunch; and then we will focus on the outside of the church - washing the windows around the building, sealing the cracks on the blacktop parking lots, with some attention paid to some of the trimming and cleaning

that needs to be done. Then, if the weather cooperates, we'll turn to the inside of the church on Saturday. That's Sunday, from Noon to 5:00 p.m., and on Saturday, from 9:00 a.m. until at least Noon (or later, if you're willing). Hope to see you there!

It was brought to our attention that the Vice-President of Council, Suzanne Walters, will most likely have to resign ... because she is willing to serve as our Choir Director! The Search Committee met and, joined by Mutual Ministry's Amen, has recommended that Suzanne be invited to do exactly that! Everyone agreed that this was a great development. Suzanne Walters has served in the role of Choir Director before, several times, and we are happy to welcome her back to a role that suits her well.

The choir will begin rehearsing under her direction on Wednesday, October 20th, at 7:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. Please note the change of time and place. We should be ready to sing on Sunday, October 24th, with an encore performance at both services on the Festival of Reformation Sunday. The choir is determined to use this good news as an opportunity to start the year with a full complement of voices, including yours! If you have been putting off the decision to get back to singing with the choir, or to start singing with the choir, now is the time. We want you. We need you. We've got to have you. So, say YES when the call comes - and it will. You'll be glad you did, and so will we. While we're on the topic, we received, with regrets, the resignation of Carol Grandjean as our Church Council Secretary. After trying the position out on a trial basis, Carol realized that over-extended commitments with work, family, kids' schedules, vacation patterns and the like made the demands of this important position more than she could juggle presently. Zion has been blessed with Jayne Schrader's willingness to assume the responsibilities of this position, beginning with our October meeting.

Congregational News

To the Zion Congregational Family:

As many of you know, I recently lost my teaching job at Garaway Local Schools in Sugarcreek due to budget cuts. Although I hoped to find a teaching job close to the Canton area, I was unsuccessful. I have, however, been offered and have accepted a teaching job on the west side of Cleveland.

I took a couple of weeks to really consider what to do about my position as Zion's Choir Director. I have come to the conclusion that it will not be feasible for me to continue working at Zion while living in the Cleveland area. I am writing this letter to inform you that I am resigning my duties at Zion as of September 1, 2004.

I have really enjoyed the two years that I have had the privilege of serving as Zion's Choir Director. Barbara and I will both miss the many new friends that we have made at Zion.

Sincerely,
Andrew Purdum

October Anniversaries & Senior Birthdays

ANNIVERSARIES FOR OCTOBER

**October 9 Ken & Debbie Elsass
October 9 Rob & Lisa Frock
October 15 Alan & Lei Fahrner
October 17 Michael & Jayne Schrader
October 18 Ralph & Bridget Edwards
October 22 John & Beth Fromholtz
October 24 Allan & Mary Humbert
October 26 Richard & Edna Smith
October 30 Todd & Tammie Fisher
October 31 Jeff & Cindy Ferry**

OCTOBER SENIOR BIRTHDAYS

**October 5 Harold Scott
October 5 Fran Tucker
October 11 Gert Meyer
October 11 Dick Findlay
October 12 Mary Corbett
October 14 Dorothy Anderson
October 21 Eddie John
October 23 Betty Findlay**

A Note to Our Readers:

If you would like your anniversary information included in *The Zion Herald*, just let the church office know by calling Helen Alex, 330-499-3909.

A Open Letter To All For A Purpose Driven Zion

On Sunday, September 26, the adult Sunday School class held its second session with *The Purpose Driven Church*, Rick Warren's follow-up to *The Purpose Driven Life*. Carol Rossbach is outlining each chapter to serve as a guide to our learning and an aid to our discussion. Her outlines are a great resource to us, just as they were when she led us through *The Purpose Driven Life*. This past Sunday we discussed the book's introductory chapters, including some brainstorming about the similarities and differences between Rick Warren's Saddleback Church in California and our beloved Zion here in North Canton.

Although there was a wide range of opinion expressed, there was a strong consensus that we, as the Body of Christ, need to be always looking for God's plan and purposes for us.

Warren calls these opportunities, or waves, that God sends our way. One of the realities of waves, whether we're focusing on the ocean or our church, is that reliving the waves we once rode to growth in the past will not get us any closer to finding the waves God is sending our way now. It's nice to reminisce, but not as a substitute for finding our purpose and claiming our mission today.

In the upcoming chapter, **What Drives Your Church (Chapter 3)**, Rick Warren gives a lively example that illustrates why we at times seem to be stymied at Zion. He describes it as multiple driving forces in the church that are competing for attention. This results in conflict, a church that is trying to head in several directions at the same time. We will talk about this issue further on Sunday, October 3rd. Please join us. Since we have a strong desire to get our feet firmly grounded in the book, we will focus more intentionally on the outline Carol has provided. The outline identifies some of the important talking points that Rick Warren raises. You don't need the outlines ahead of time. Just come. Our plan is to pace ourselves in a way that enables us to grow together in our understanding of our purpose as God's church.

Now is the time to talk more about what Warren calls "the myths" about growing churches. These "myths" are a part of our everyday attitudes and opinions. Do we agree or disagree with Rick Warren as he disputes the errors of thought we might have about the success of mega-churches? Even if large churches grow at the expense of smaller churches, is that the key to their growth? We will be well served by focusing on some of the following topics in Chapter 3: What are the facets of genuine church growth? Which is more important, quality or quantity? Is there one secret to church growth? Is being faithful enough? Is dedication all that matters? What is being successful as a church? Can we learn from the big churches?

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday. Your being there is important to us. Your being there will be good for Zion, and for you.

Your fellow servants in Christ,
Chuck Danner, Carol Rossbach
John Davis and Pastor Sherwindt

Remember When

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, HERE AT ZION
1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. IN LUTHER HALL**

The "Elderberries" refer to anyone 50 and older. You could easily call us the "Respect-Your-Elderberries" or the "Youngerberries"; but the main point is that we are getting together on Saturday, October 2, to celebrate 190 YEARS OF MINISTRY here at Zion Lutheran Church.

There will be some good old-fashioned reminiscing, music, and memorabilia, mixed in with lots of fun, some interesting games, and, of course, delicious food. We regard these events as a ministry to our older, and, in some cases, homebound, members. So, if you know of someone who would appreciate an invitation, or a ride, please, by all means make sure that everyone gets to Zion for Remember When?, our 190th Anniversary Party.

For more information, or if there is a need for transportation, feel free to call Anna Mae Le Beau (330-499-3018), Betty Tracy (330-996-8529), or Darlene Milavickas (330-883-3630).

The Women of Zion

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Our collection of items for our Health Kits and School Kits has gone so well that at this point all we need is hand towels. What a great job! Thanks for your help. Don't forget that our annual BLANKET DAY is set for Sunday, October 10th. That's when we take the quilts we've taken all year to make, and set them out on the pews during worship. What a sight! What a service! On the following Thursday, October 14th, we'll meet at the church and pack all of the items we'll be driving over to Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Seville on Saturday, October 16th.

CHANCEL GUILD

will meet on Tuesday, October 12th, at 6:30 p.m. for our regularly scheduled Fall Cleaning. For those who think ahead, the Chancel Guild has taken responsibility for preparing the dinner for our first Advent Dinner and Devotion, which is set for Sunday, November 28th, with dinner at 5:30 p.m., and our Advent craft and devotions at 6:15 p.m.

LUTHERAN WOMEN TODAY:

The Women of Zion meet on the 3rd Tuesday, October 19th, for their monthly Bible Study. October will continue their focus on the everyday surprises found in the parables of Jesus, focusing on "God's Gracious Economy" in Matthew's version of the Workers in the Vineyard [Matthew 20:1-16].

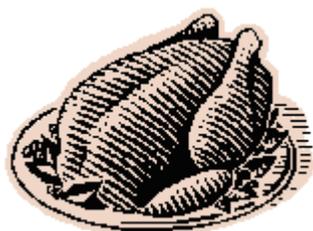
LUTHERAN WOMEN'S LEAGUE ANNUAL FALL LUNCHEON

is October 11, 2004 at 11:30 a.m. at the Waterford at St. Luke's Lutheran Community. We will feature our lovely 50th Anniversary Quilt. Please bring a small gift or Bingo prize to be given to St. Luke residents. RSVP to Ruth Elsass or Betty Tracy by October

6th.

The Food Pantry

September means children have returned to school, and October means that we are beginning to look ahead to the start of our preparations for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Mashed potatoes have now been stock piled, and the hunt has begun for the rest of the fixins. We buy a little here and a little there, and a little more here and a little more there. Pretty soon our little "here's and there's" add up to 64 Thanksgiving dinners, feeding approximately 220 people. Without Zion's help we would never be able to complete our meals.



Once again, we are asking for 12-POUND TURKEYS, or whatever financial contribution you can make. Our Thanksgiving meals are distributed to 32 Siffrin group homes, which is the group that oversees Bruce and Dick Findlays' group home, and also the four fellows living at our church parsonage. As you can see a lot of our neighbors depend upon us, which means that a lot of neighbors depend on the generosity of Zion's church family. We are always grateful for interest and support.

Your fellow servants
at Zion's Food Pantry

Zion's Body Builders

THE MEN OF ZION met on Wednesday, September 8th, to listen to the heartwarming stories of Dr. Jahed Asfoura, who, standing at his mother's gravesite in Damascus, is able to see the church that commemorates the conversion of St. Paul. Dr. Asfoura, a native of Damascus, Syria, practices medicine here in the greater Canton area. Professionally, he is a kidney specialist. Confessionally, he is a devout member of the Syrian Orthodox Church. We had a great night with the good doctor. Twenty-eight were in attendance. The dinner, compliments of Linda Lancashire, and sisters Donna Roan and Ann Semple, was truly outstanding - homemade lasagna, with salad and dessert.

Our thanks to all who helped, to all who came, and to Dr. Asfoura for his generosity in sharing himself, his past, his many opinions, and his deep love for the stories of St. Paul. The Men of Zion will meet for dinner next on the evening of Wednesday, October 12, at 6:00 p.m., in Luther Hall. See you there.

Our thanks to the Men of Zion for some great Rally Day Tournaments. We had a good turnout for basketball and euchre, along with a few committed horse shoe aficionados. These tournaments added a nice touch to the fun of Rally Day. We look forward to more of the same in future years.

Our North Canton Coed Volleyball League is now underway. We have eight teams, with games scheduled on Sunday evenings between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. at both Zion Lutheran Church and Faith United Methodist Church. Our thanks to Bob Lancashire for the initiative taken and leadership shown in making the move from softball this summer to volleyball this fall.

The Youth of Zion

With all this talk about Mecklenburg - and rightly so - many may have overlooked the fact that we have a lot more on our minds than Germany. How about Toronto? How about the Badlands? These would make great sites for Mission Trips, too. Sure, serving at a soup kitchen in Berlin would be a great experience. Melanie Slease tells us that the American Mission in Berlin would be happy to make the arrangements. But there are some great North American opportunities for service that our youth would have a great time exploring. So, let's all get focused on the Fall Craft Show. This is a great way to raise the funds we will need to make our mission trips possible.

As we think closer to home and closer to now, October 30, November 19-21, December 19, and January 7-9 are crucial dates. Our traditional Halloween Haunted House for the youngest kids at Zion is set for Saturday, October 30. The older youth usually keep the evening young all night long. The Weekend Servant Event with St. Paul's in Smithville (along with several other churches) will be heading north to Camp Luther in Conneaut this year. That will begin Friday night and wind up on Sunday, November 19-21. The Youth will host our Advent Service on Sunday, December 19. The Winter Gathering in Independence Ohio is scheduled for the weekend of January 7-9, 2005. So, we've got some great dates on the calendar and some great dreams on the horizon.

The BIBLE BOWL is going to focus on the Gospel of Matthew this year. Confirmants and High Schoolers are invited to join Todd Elsass and Wayne Slease for the 2004-05 edition of this long-standing Zion tradition.
