

August 2007 Newsletter

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear members and friends of Zion,

I know that it's just August; but it just feels like time for THANKSGIVING - giving thanks for everyone who made July such a memorable month. First, it was our wine-tasting fundraiser for the Sanctuary Renovation Fund. Then, it was the week of Vacation Bible School. And finally, it was Prayer Bracelets by Carol, another highly successful fundraising effort for the Sanctuary Renovation Fund. It is so gratifying to see what care goes into contributing to the work of the congregation, and even more satisfying to experience the support that wells up from among us to lend a hand. Carol Rossbach found great support for the bracelets she designed. Debbie Fox was overwhelmed by the volunteer help that made Vacation Bible School an astounding success. Mark Votaw could not have been happier with the response he received and the fun we enjoyed when everything came up sevens on 07/07/07 at 7:00.

Our wine-tasting extravaganza included gourmet pizzas prepared in wood-fired ovens in the picture perfect setting of Joe and Renee Ramunni's backyard paradise in Wadsworth. A wide array of surprisingly exotic pizzas, perfectly complemented a very nice selection of wines from around the world, was capped off with a taste of some of the finest reds and crisp, clean whites to come from the wine cellar of Dennis Laughlin, President of Arzell Zoning, Inc. The evening began at Zion with Mark Votaw narrating a video presentation of our recent mission trip to New Orleans at the Saturday evening service, and ended with the good news that we had succeeded in raising just about \$1,200.00 for the Sanctuary Renovation Fund. What a night! Next on the calendar was Zion's annual celebration of Vacation Bible School. This year's theme was Take the Plunge, which we gladly did with oodles of kids - between seventy and eighty - and plenty of volunteers - between fifty and sixty - turning our encounter with daily chaos into a creative masterpiece of God's love alive among us. What a wonderful week of great fun, lively music, fabulous teamwork, and lots of learning. You'll read more about Vacation Bible School in the pages that follow, but our hearts and thanks go out to Debbie Fox, for the great job she did in pulling so many resources together - teams of teachers, lots of helpers, crews for the kitchen, the crafts, and daily cleaning, too, with awesome music, beautiful quilts, and lots of fun taking the plunge and making a splash with water slides, dunk tanks, and all sorts of games for kids of all ages. What a week!

Finally, lest I forget, throughout the course of this month we have featured the artistry of Carol Rossbach and the variety of prayer bracelets she designed for us. The bracelets are beautiful, but even more noteworthy is the difference that one person can make simply by following God's call and using the personal combination of time and talents to contribute to the work of God's kingdom and the life of our church. With three weekends of sales now accounted for, with one person's time and thousands of beads later, hear this: Carol has sold enough bracelets to raise just over \$1,200.00 for the Sanctuary Renovation Fund. What a witness! Thank you Carol, and thank you Zion, for all that you do for the good of the church and to the glory of God. Your generosity of spirit inspires our praise and our service, to God and this church.

In His service, and yours,
Pastor Sherwindt

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2007

This year an amazing group of kids Took the Plunge and Made a Splash with Jesus at Vacation Bible School during the week of July 16 - 20. We had a total of seventy-eight children registered this year, averaging about seventy children each day. The children experienced a wide variety of activities during the week - great lessons, music, crafts, games, a treasure hunt, great food, many community service projects, a Wet & Wild Day at the Water Park, and the Water Park Splash Party.

This year's lessons were all about water and Jesus' love. Each day during the opening, Pastor Sherwindt introduced the day's lesson, and our kids learned about a splash point to go along with each lesson. Monday we learned to Plunge into Obedience through the story of the miraculous catch of fish. Tuesday we learned to Plunge into Worship through the story of Jesus and the woman at the well. Wednesday we learned to Plunge into Courage after hearing the story of Jesus calming the storm. Thursday we learned to Plunge into Faith with the story of Jesus walking on water. This lesson was quite fitting for Thursday because all of us had to have faith that day with terrible storms in the weather forecast. We thought our Water Day would have to be cancelled, but God blessed us with a great day after all, and the rain and storms started only after our day was complete! Thanks be to God! Finally, Friday we learned to Plunge into Service with the story of Jesus washing the disciples' feet. In fact, we lived and learned this last splash point all week with all of the great service work the children did!

We had an awesome group of lifeguards & assistants (teachers) this year. They put in a lot of time and hard work to make this year's program such a success. I am so grateful to them for the amazing job that they did! The children had such a great time and loved their leaders!

As always, music was one of the highlights of VBS thanks to Suzanne Walters. Suzanne did an amazing job with the kids - teaching them the songs, motions and dancing. She put together a wonderful program for the Ice Cream Social on Thursday evening. Parents, family and friends truly enjoyed the music, the motions, and the excitement our kids displayed with every song sung. Our VBS kids really enjoyed this year's music. It was fun and the songs had such great meaning. I am sure they will be singing and dancing to these songs for a long time!

Once again, our crafts were truly outstanding, thanks to the creativity, patience, organization and flexibility of Connie Frank, Anna Mae LeBeau and Linda Ross.

The week finished strong with our Wet & Wild Day at the Water Park on Thursday, an Ice Cream Social (sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans) on Thursday night, and our Water Park Splash Party on Friday where the kids enjoyed games, the big water slide, water balloons, the snack shack, a pizza party and the Dunk Tank, where many Water Park staffers "took the plunge" thanks to the kids' great throwing arms.

Our kitchen crew, led by Shirley & Charlie Cavender, gave us a great menu that the children (and adults) loved! We had pizza, and pasta, and peanut butter & jelly, and hot dogs, and hamburgers, and lots of great stuff! We also had a traveling popsicle and ice cream cart, which made the rounds each day, and found our children anxiously waiting all week long! Each treat was 25 cents, and the money collected was added to our offering to be donated to our special charities. There were two: Keegan O'Reilly and Zion's Food Pantry & Clothing Closet.

Our summer ritual of Vacation Bible School is such a great success because of the contributions and commitments of everyone involved - the staff, the children, their families and our entire congregational family. Thank you to everyone who donated supplies, food, money and time!

I've included a list of staff and volunteers who were invaluable to the great experience we enjoyed. Many of these folks did far more than our categories describe. In truth, everyone was willing to help out wherever they were needed! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

OOOR 2007 VBS TAKE THE PLUNGS; WATER PARK STAFF

Water Park Director Debbie Fox
Music Director Suzanne Walters
Lifeguards (for the following age groups) Pre-K: Laura Thompson & Karen Thompson
Kindergarten 1: Anna Sherwindt
Kindergarten 2: Tina Beaber
1st & 2nd grades: Connie Riffle
2nd & 3rd grades: Valerie Cizek
4th, 5th, 6th grades: Renee Schrader
Our Youth Helpers: Alex Albright, Corey Beaber, Todd Cizek, Michelle Cohen, Sam Deremer, Kelly Fischer, Laura Kay, Kylie Lancashire, Lauren Mathie, Ben Mathie, Matt Mathie, Brooke Roman, Taylor Roman, Dana Roman, Josh Roan, Nicole Ross, Ashley SirLouis, Kirsten Sudar, Michal Todich, Kelly Walters
Our Other Volunteers: Melissa Riffle, Janet Slease, Mikealene Schmidt, Bob Lancashire, Mark Votaw and Diane Dunphy
The Kitchen Crew: Shirley & Charlie Cavender (team leaders), Claudia Griesen, Gary & Shirley Horton, Karen Kirk, Linda Lancashire, Cheryl Roman, Ann Semple, Sharon Stout, Chris Thomas
The Craft Team: Connie Frank, Anna Mae LeBeau, Linda Ross
Tee Shirt Team: Carol Rossbach, Amy Mathie, Mary Humbert, Cheryl Roman, Darlene Dague and Betty Lenz
Zion's Comfort Givers: Kay Davis, Ruth Elsass, Helen Edwards, Joyce Gibeaut, Helen Heller, Mabel Snyder, Linda Wilson, Betty Tracy
Quilt Squares: Ginny Rhodes and Cheryl Roman
Decorations: Carol Rossbach, Mabel Kolarik, Edna Smith, Betty Tracy, Linda & Nicole Ross, Alex Albright, Mary Humbert, Anna Mae LeBeau
Set Up & Prep Work: Connie Frank, Anna Mae LeBeau, Connie Riffle, Melissa Riffle, Janet Slease, Renee Schrader, Taylor Roman, Brooke Roman, Kelly Walters, Darlene Dague, Betty Lenz, Jeff Frank, Dean Fox, Doug Roman, Brian Walters, Carley & Cassie Frank, Nathan & Jeremy Fox, Kevin Walters
Registration: Cheryl Roman and Sharon Stout
VBS Daily Newsletters: Lisa Roman and Debbie Fox
Family Night Programs: Lisa Roman and Debbie Fox
Video Presentation: Chuck Danner
The Giving Well: Chris Thomas
Photo CD: Taylor Roman
Thrivent Financial: Matching Funds & Ice Cream Social
Items for the Kids: Mercy Medical Center

This year was once again truly amazing! Because of the people listed above, our program was a great success. Zion is very blessed with a great group of volunteers who make our Vacation Bible School program one of the best around! Everyone's flexibility, time commitment and hard work are incredible! We could not do this ministry without everyone's help and support, and for that I am grateful from the bottom of my heart! Thank you, again, to all involved!

Debbie Fox

GREAT NEWS FROM ZION'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

UPCOMING EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Sunday, August 26: This is our last class session for Summer Sunday School

Sunday, September 2: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL scheduled for Labor Day Weekend

Sunday, September 9: Rally Day, Rally Day, Rally Day! 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

Sunday, September 16: Children's Choir Practice resumes! 9:10 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, September 16: The 2007-08 Sunday School Year begins today, 9:30 a.m.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL: PRE-KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 6

Water Works Park will be closing at the end of August! Join us for our final weeks as the kids continue to ride the wave of God's love! Our children are learning about five water-based Bible stories this summer. There are great lessons, crafts, games and snacks yet to come this month as we wrap up summer Sunday School. We invite our older youth to join us and help out! Our younger kids really look up to them and love having them in class! Please join us for the last four weeks of our Water Works Park adventure!

LOOK FOR RALLY DAY ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH!

We will kick off the new Sunday School year with our Rally Day celebration on the first Sunday following Labor Day Weekend. Since Labor Day is Monday, September 3, Rally Day at Zion will be Sunday, September 9, with all sorts of great things happening all day long. We usually begin with a Ministry Fair between the services at 9:15 a.m. during the Sunday School hour in Luther Hall. There will be snacks and fun activities planned for the kids, along with the Ministry Fair, which will be on display in Luther Hall. After our 10:30 a.m. worship service, get ready for our Second Annual Hawaiian Luau and Pig Roast sponsored by the Men of Zion. This was a great day of fun and fundraising last year, and we expect even more of the same this year. The food will be out of this world. The dunk tank will be back. Plan to have great fun. Zion really knows how to throw a party, and that's exactly what Rally Day is, a celebration of the beginning of yet another year of growing in love and service by grace. Look for more details as the great day approaches.

PLUNGE INTO SERVICE: MORE GREAT NEWS FROM VBS

This year our VBS kids were involved with many service projects - some familiar and some different. Plunging into Service is so important and it's such a wonderful way for the kids to show God's love to others. Our kids spent the whole week doing just that! We had a very caring, generous and loving group of kids! Thank you to everyone for your support of our many projects. Here are the ways we invited everyone to participate in serving:

The Offering: The boys and girls had a contest to see who could collect the most money during the week. All week long they filled up jars and collected a total of \$372.62. This money will be donated to Keegan O'Reilly, a North Canton youngster diagnosed with a medical condition called AVM (Arteriovenous Malformation). An equal amount of money, due to the Matching Funds that were provided by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, will be donated to Zion's Food Pantry. What a great job done by the kids! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Zion's Food Pantry: The children also brought in food items to fill the Giving Well in Luther Hall. These items will go to Zion's Food Pantry to help out those in need in our community!

The Well of Giving was filled by week's end! Again, thanks to everyone for your support!

Quilt Squares: All of our children designed beautiful quilt squares this year. This has become a wonderful tradition at VBS for Zion. Zion's Comfort Givers were able to sew 11 beautiful

quilts from the squares our children created. Ten of these quilts will be sent to Lutheran World Relief to help those in need across the globe. Valerie Cizek was the lucky winner of this year's quilt raffle, and she chose the quilt that had the squares that her students created. Our congratulations to Valerie, and thanks to our kids and Zion's quilters for all of their hard work!

Classroom Projects: We are very proud of the Classroom Service Projects that our children chose this year! They are truly an amazing group of very caring and giving kids! All of these projects demonstrated the many splash points of Jesus' love - service, faith, and courage. What a great job was done by all of the kids! Miss Laura's Pre-K Class collected backpacks to be given to children in Stark County's Child Protective Services. Miss Anna's K1 Class collected and recycled paper from the classrooms during the week, and brought in extra quarters to share with Senior Independence so the seniors could buy treats from the VBS Ice Cream Cart during the week. Miss Tina's K2 Class collected school supplies to be given to the children of Zion's Food Pantry. Miss Connie's 1st Grade Class cleaned up the church and parsonage grounds. Miss Valerie's 2nd & 3rd Grade Class collected items needed by Stark County's Humane Society. Lya Milek also donated a jar of money that she had been collecting over the last year to be given to the Humane Society! Miss Renee's 4th, 5th, 6th Grade Class played games with the seniors in Senior Independence, and also collected items for the Humane Society.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Adult Sunday School Class has been having a great time with Martin Marty's *Lutheran Questions and Lutheran Answers*. This is a very readable book, which takes up a whole slew of classic issues that interest, puzzle, and sometimes trouble many of us who take our believing seriously. We've discussed issues like faith and free will, the free gift of salvation and the hard work of faithfulness. Sometimes we just have fun with the observations some offer about faith, the Bible, Zion's rich past, and our trying to live as Christians right now. We've got a great team leading our weekly discussions. Jim Fidler, Carol Rossbach, and Charlie Danner take turns at inspiring our interest. We can all use a little help in reassessing what it means to be a Lutheran, and a Christian. Why not plan to join us on Sunday mornings. The coffee is fresh, the conversation is lively, and we always have a good deal of fun to go along with the insights we share and laughs we enjoy. We begin at 9:15 a.m.

LET'S PRAY ABOUT IT

Philip Yancey, author of the very popular book *What's So Amazing about Grace*, has written a book about prayer entitled *Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?* This is a book that explores such basic questions as: Is God listening? If God knows all, is there even a point to praying? Why do so many prayers go unanswered? While the author has much to teach us about the value of prayer, he begins by interviewing ordinary people like you and me about prayer. He writes, "I interviewed ordinary people about prayer. Typically the results went like this: Is prayer important to you? Oh, yes. How often do you pray? Every day. Approximately how long? Five minutes Well, maybe seven. Do you find prayer satisfying? Not really. Do you sense the presence of God when you pray? Occasionally, not often. Many of those I talked to experienced prayer more as a burden than as a pleasure. They regarded it as important, but felt guilty about their failure, blaming themselves."

Manv of us would like to improve the quality of our nraver life. but wonder where to begin. Pr.

Yancey recounts a brief encounter with a student of his in Chicago. "I was teaching a class at a church in Chicago, when a young woman raised her hand with a question. I knew her as a shy conscientious student who attended faithfully but never spoke. The rest of the class seemed surprised as well and listened attentively. 'I'm not always sincere when I pray,' she began. 'Sometimes it seems forced, more like a ritual. I'm just repeating words. Does God hear those prayers? Should I keep going even though I have no confidence that I am doing it right?' I let the silence hang in the room for a moment before attempting an answer. 'Do you notice how quiet it is in here?' I said. 'We all sense your honesty. It took courage for you to be vulnerable, and you touched a nerve with others of us in the room. You seem sincere. We're tuned in, listening, respectful, because you are being authentic. I imagine it's the same with God. More than anything, God wants your authentic self.'" [pp. 40-41]

Ginny Rhodes came across this book in her desire to expand our prayer ministries at Zion beyond the well-established presence of our Prayer Chain. We'll get together on Monday evenings to talk about prayer, using this book by Philip Yancey to focus our questions and our interests. While the formal startup of this Monday evening group will occur after Rally Day in September, if you would like to help us preview this book, just let Ginny, Carol Rossbach, or Pastor know of your interest

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

We took a moment to acknowledge Carol Rossbach's first Council meeting as our elected President, and then enjoyed yet another meeting with excellent attendance: Carol, Jayne Schrader, Dave Palumbo, Cindy Ferry, Mary Humbert, Betty Tracy, Steve Ross, Bob Lancashire, Chris Thomas, Pastor Sherwindt. We met for several minutes with Jim Fidler, the newly appointed chairperson of the Task Force charged with overseeing our response to boiler-related problems at Zion. Jim indicated that half the building has heat but no air-conditioning, and half the building has air-conditioning but problems with heat. Ours is a hodge-podge of systems, which include three heating units and four air-conditioning units, which range in age from twenty-five to forty-seven years old. He looks forward to calling his first meeting with the Task Force in the very near future.

The Pastor's Report reviewed our fabulous Mission Trip to New Orleans, and then looked ahead to our two fundraisers for the Sanctuary Renovation Fund. Our experiences in New Orleans have been well-documented in newsletters, through sermons, and on the website. Plans for moving ahead with fund-raising for our Sanctuary Renovations have been very nicely received and supported.

The Treasurer's Report showed that our Operating Budget deficit, which ended the first quarter of 2007 in the red at (\$6,398.95), has remained unchanged through the second quarter, and now stands at (\$6,397.85). In other words, income for April, May, and June has held steady with expenses. We hope this pattern continues in July and August, which will increase our chances of making good progress against the deficit when the program year begins in September.

The President's Report included reference to resources that were shared at the Synod Assembly, especially as this related to issues of stewardship. Carol spoke about being impressed by Pr. Ishler's observation that we take time with bulletins, newsletters, and even announcements to extend thank you's for everything that members do, except for the giving of money. One congregation had Statements of Intent, and often thanked persons for honoring or exceeding their Statement of Intent. No amounts were mentioned, just that a good number of members were reaching their personal goals, which was helping the church to meet its goals.

MEN OF ZION NEWS

The Men of Zion began another month with a mix of dinner and conversation for a nice evening with some great fellowship. We have an active summer schedule, which included the Lutheran Men in Mission "best ball" scramble at the Raintree Country Club in Green on July 14, support of Vacation Bible School the week of July 16-20, and then a special presentation offered by Jim Fidler at our monthly meeting in August. Jim has some great stories as a litigator with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and he has offered to keep us entertained for the evening, as long as all of us know that we've been sworn to secrecy for the better part of eternity, should any questions ever arise about anything that Jim may have shared about area 51 in Roswell, Arizona!

Actually, Jim's presentation covered mostly cold war stories of counter-espionage with the Soviets, then the Russians, with some insights into China, too. He spoke of two (now infamous) colleagues, Robert Hansson and Aldrich Ames, and he also told of how his work contributed to the release of famous Russian dissident Natan Sharansky in 1986. What a nice evening, and what interesting stories, shared by one half of one of the very nice couples who worship alongside of us here at Zion just about every week.

As we look ahead, our sights are set for the Hawaiian Luau and Pig Roast set on the Rally Day schedule here at Zion on Sunday, September 9. There's still lots to plan; but one thing is sure - the food will be out of this world. The Singing Chef is already thinking of ways that we can improve on last year's menu. We're going to have lots of fun, lots of food, and lots of folks to enjoy a great day.

AUGUST SENIOR BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to:

Barb Achauer	August 1
Cora Lanzalotta	August 3
Robert Leed	August 3
Juanita Bathol	August 7
Larry Moore	August 9
Kay Davis	August 10
Chris Thomas	August 10
Mary John	August 16
Ila Mae Givler	August 20
Earl Bathol	August 23
Dick Smith	August 23
Betty Dague	August 25
Helen Edwards	August 28
Jane Hirschman	August 29



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Anniversary to:

August 10	Bill & Jeannie Forsyth
August 13	Steve & Margaret Porter
August 17	Ron & Carole Singer
August 23	Mike & Rosalie Babich
August 29	Dan & Linda Wilson
August 29	Steve & Karen Amatangelo
August 30	Jerald & Jane Hirschman
August 31	Dick & Doris Spall

THE WOMEN OF ZION NEWS

Zion's Comfort Givers met during the week of Vacation Bible School, and did a great job organizing scores of quilt squares designed by our VBS kids into eleven beautiful quilts, ten of which will become a part of Blanket Sunday in October. We would like to thank all of Zion's Quilters for their hard work and gentle faithfulness. It makes such a difference to have the whole community involved in Vacation Bible School, and it is clear that our Comfort Givers look forward to the opportunity this collaborative connection affords.

The Women's Bible Study continues its focus on *Acting Boldly for Mission*, which asks how women can be involved in the mission of loving and blessing and saving the world. We meet in Luther Hall at 9:30 a.m. on the third Tuesday of the month, August 21. Our August meeting will complete our year-long study in *Acting Boldly*. In September, we begin a nine-month Bible study, *Blessed to Follow: The Beatitudes as a Compass for Discipleship*. Martha E. Stortz, Professor of Historical Theology and Ethics at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, wrote the study guide, and she is looking forward to assisting women in their study of Jesus' first big sermon in Matthew, which begins with the beatitudes. The first word out of Jesus' mouth is "blessed", and he repeats this word time and again. What does it mean to be blessed? What does it mean to be a blessing to someone else? Please plan to join us.

Gracious God, we bless you for you are the source and font of all goodness. You have created us, claimed us, and named us. Fill our mouths with your praise. Fill our hearts with your love. Fill our lives with your purpose. We ask this in the strong name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord. Amen

ODDS 'N' ENDS AT ZION

A Note of Thanks to Debbie Fox:

What a week, and so much more! We're still shaking our heads in amazement, and tapping our feet to the beat of so much fun with *Take the Plunge*. This year's edition of Vacation Bible School was the best ever - for the kids, for the staff, for the music, for the crafts, for the food, for the t-shirts, for the water fun, for the quilts, for the ice cream, for the pictures, for the memories, and for the overall sense of unbelievably effective organization. Thanks.

Your Church Family

Want to Get Closer to Each Other, and God? Find out how on a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend! LME sponsors retreats where couples can get away from jobs, chores, and kids to focus on each other. If you'd like to strengthen the foundations of your marriage, check out a Marriage Encoun-ter Weekend. There's one October 12-14 at the Holiday Express Inn in Richfield, and another at the Commodore Perry Inn in Port Clinton, November 9-11. Zion has two couples - Bob & Linda Lancashire and Bob & Darlene Kail - who would love to tell you more about Lutheran Marriage Encounter.

Speaking about Bob Lancashire, we would like to extend a hearty thank you to Bob for his great work as the Commissioner of our North Canton Ministerial Association Co-ed Softball League. Our last game was Sunday, July 29th. We had great fun, and the record to prove it, with three wins and one loss in the Round Robin Tournament, along with three wins and three losses in the regular season.

Zion's Sunday Brunch Bunch: The second time was even better! It was July 15th, and we decided to give the new Sunday brunch at the Hoover Farm a try. What a great decision, and what a great buffet! Our hosts were the staff from Benjamin's Restaurant. The setting was gorgeous; the weather, beautiful; and the food, delicious. Our next gathering for the Sunday Brunch Bunch will be after worship on September 23rd. Why not give it a try? We're sure you'll enjoy it.