

October 2007 Newsletter

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear members and friends of Zion,

The entire month of September has been an extended celebration of a strong beginning to our new program year. Whether it was reveling in the beauty of New England's breath-taking sand dunes on Cape Cod during worship on Labor Day weekend, or staring into the eyes of a delicious pig roasted for our celebration on Rally Day on the 9th, or the strong beginning to Sunday School on the 16th, or marveling at dabs of purple adding color to our freshly painted Sanctuary on the 23rd: September has been a wonderful reminder of all that's right with Zion. Financially speaking, Zion has turned the corner on the nagging reality of a year-long deficit. Much to our surprise, we trimmed about \$600 off that pesky irritant in August; we followed up with a strong September, leaving us with a very reachable goal of retiring the red ink of last winter with a strong finish in the fourth quarter, usually the most generous time of the year. But that's only part of the story. What is even more impressive is how easily your generosity helped us to breeze beyond our goals for the Sanctuary Renovation Fund. Our original goal of \$23,900 will be easily met with pledges and gifts that have surpassed the \$31,000 mark! In one week's time, 23 volunteers logged over 300 hours to complete the first phase of our new look in the Sanctuary, adding some Lenten purple to highlight the colors that flow from the signature stained glass window that frames the Cross at the front of the church. The camaraderie that grew stronger with working together every evening from 6:00 p.m. til after 10:00 p.m. was, without doubt, a wonderful gift. But it was also good to reflect on the good news that rather than facing a bill of almost \$5,000 were a professional crew to have done the work, we had finished the job for under \$1,000 ... and it looks great! Come and see. I'm sure you'll agree.

Now we move on to October, usually a very strong month for our church, culminating with the Festival of Reformation Sunday on October 28. Lutherans have an endearing fondness for the boisterous praise that is offered with such hymns as *A Mighty Fortress and The Church's One Foundation*, along with powerful themes of trust lifted up with historic chorales like *Built on a Rock and Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*. Between the Senior Choir, Zion's Praise Team, talented organists and gifted pianists, we can thank God for how we've been blessed with worship leaders, and we should make it a point to offer our praise here at worship.

Every Sunday during October we will offer our annual opportunity for the youthful among us to learn about Holy Communion. Since we are a community that offers communion to all the baptized, we try to make sure that our younger members learn about its meaning in terms they can appreciate. Charlie Danner and Debbie Fox are our guides, with Debbie leading our group for children under six, and Charlie leading our group of older kids who have not yet entered the Confirmation program. We invite our families to attend the 10:30 a.m. service. Right after the children's sermon following the prayer of the day, these groups head into the Resource Center for an opportunity to learn about communion, which comes to a close when communion begins.

So, September was a great beginning to our new program year, which continues with some great opportunities in October for celebrating the wonderful gift of God's love alive among us. In His service, and yours,
Pastor Sherwindt

HOLY COMMUNION CLASS

Zion is a church that offers Holy Communion to all the baptized, no ifs, ands, or buts. We, therefore, have the responsibility to help our parents teach their children about its meaning as the weekly blessing through which God gives Himself to us completely in, with, and under the bread and wine of this wonderful Sacrament. We are an inclusive people when it comes to extending Jesus' invitation to come to the table, and we trust that God is able to accomplish the aims of His grace in fulfilling the promises made in Baptism. We are saved by grace through faith, and not by works. Confirmation doesn't earn us a place at the table. Rather, it helps us understand why the gifts it offers are already ours. The reality of a loving community sharing God's grace and living God's love is what enables our minds to grasp the mysteries of salvation, whether we're talking about the divine made human in Jesus, bread and wine becoming Christ's body and blood in communion, or mere mortals receiving the gift of eternal life. God's grace comes first, always, enabling us gradually to grasp and understand what God has given us and how much God loves us. These are some of the simple truths of our Christian faith that Debbie Fox and Charlie Danner will be sharing with our kids as they lead our Learning about Holy Communion classes, which will be starting on Sunday, October 7. This class takes place during the 10:30 a.m. service, all four Sundays in October. Mr. Danner teaches our Sunday School children from 1st thru 6th grades. Mrs. Fox leads our Pre-K & Kindergarten children. We also have materials for parents with younger children whom they feel may not be ready for these classes. These materials suggest activities that can be done at home as a family. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Sherwindt.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

What an amazing summer of study for our adult class! Great attendance and discussion have accompanied our summertime study of Martin Marty's book *Lutheran Questions & Lutheran Answers*. We thank Jim Fidler, Charlie Danner, and Carol Rossbach for their leadership in preparing for some enlightening discussions about our uniquely Lutheran perspective on the Christian faith and life. As October approaches we are getting ready for the celebration of the Lutheran Reformation. Our first two Sundays will focus on Easter chickens, with the next two Sundays on the life and times of Martin Luther.

Pastor Sherwindt reintroduced the image of the Easter chicken on the Sunday that we inaugurated our Lenten purple look in the Sanctuary. What is it that makes the church a different kind of community? How is the church different from the world? Why should we care? What are the ways we lose that difference, and become "just like all the other chickens", looking more like we are of the world as well as in the world? These discussions should help us as we prepare to take a closer look at what Martin Luther intended in focusing on the need for renewal and reformation in the life of the church.

The November edition of the magazine *The Lutheran* features more pages and many additional articles about Martin Luther, the Reformation, and our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It is a special 100-page edition, on sale for a mere \$1.25. We have ordered 50 copies, and hope to have that many buyers as we use this magazine as our study guide for the Sundays of October 21 and 28, the Festival of the Reformation. You will not want to miss any of these

Sunday morning discussions - and don't forget to wear read on Reformation Sunday!

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

Carol Rossbach called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members in attendance were Jayne Schrader, Dave Palumbo, Mary Humbert, Bob Lancashire, Tina Beaber, Steve Ross, Chris Thomas and Pastor Sherwindt. Jim Fidler was appointed to fill the open spot of Vice President; Mark Votaw, the open spot of Resource Ministry Elder. Betty Tracy was absent. The Council now has its full set of members. We have two open spots among our trustees. Volunteers are welcome.

Our first order of business was to review the August Treasurer's Reports, which surprised with some good news about strong giving during the summer months. We then moved on to the main item on the agenda, discussing the Proposed Budget for 2008. Actually, there was very little to talk about, since all were very happy with the fact that there are not all that many differences between 2007 and 2008. Since we feel confident that we will reach this year's goals, we feel confident that next year's goals are also within our reach. We decided that Zion's Fall Congregational Meeting, where we will seek approval for the 2008 Proposed Budget for 2008, will occur on the Wednesday evening of October 24, beginning with dinner at 6:15 p.m., and the meeting to follow at 7:00 p.m.

ZION'S MUSIC PROGRAM

Things have gotten off to a great start for our music program. September began with the Senior Choir's first rehearsal of the new year, and I was thrilled to see so many faithful members return to renew their commitment to our music ministry. We have started in with our schedule of singing three times each month at the early service, and the choir is doing wonderful things.

The Praise Team continues to rehearse and learn new songs to add fresh new sounds to our blended service. The goal we keep in mind when planning music for the late service is a balance between the familiar and the new. Members of the Praise Team are always eager to introduce new songs to our congregational family, and we appreciate the willingness with which you receive new material. We sense a patient understanding from our worshiping community, along with an increased confidence each week that we repeat a newer song. That speaks volumes for you and your willingness to embrace change!

The children's choirs are doing super work! The approach we have taken this year has already proven successful, and I think the children are enjoying the change as well. We now have two smaller groups organized according to age, and this is working beautifully. We should look forward to October 7th, when the older children's choir will sing Thy Word at the 10:30 a.m. service, and to November 4th, when the younger children's choir will sing Jesus Loves the Little Children. A big thank you to the parents for insuring that their children arrive on time for our very short rehearsals!

Your support is deeply appreciated.

GREAT NEWS FROM ZION'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Upcoming Events - Mark your calendars!

Sunday, October 7: Sunday School Choir (older group) sings at 10:30 a.m. service
Sunday, October 7: Children's Communion Class starts during the 10:30 a.m. service
Saturday, October 20: Youth Missions "Oktoberfest" Craft Show, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 4: Celebration of Certificates with Completion of Communion Class
Sunday, November 4: Children's Choir (younger group) sings at the 10:30 a.m. service
Saturday, December 15: Dress Rehearsal for Children's Christmas Program at 12:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 16: Zion's Children's Christmas Program at the 10:30 a.m. service

Pre-K through the Sixth Grade

Our Sunday School year is off to a great start! The kids will be learning a variety of lessons about Old and New Testament stories this year. Sunday School begins after children finish their respective choir practice, with the younger children practicing from 9:10-9:20 a.m., and the older children practicing from 9:20-9:30 a.m. Sunday School ends at 10:20 a.m. Their lessons are filled with important messages about God's Word, along with great crafts, games and snacks.

The following is an updated list of this year's classes and teachers: Pre-Kindergarten (Vicki Givler and Melissa Riffle); Kindergarten and 1st Grade (Connie Riffle, with helper, Corlene Coulter); 2nd and 3rd Grades (Janet Slease); 4th, 5th, and 6th Grades (Mary Humbert). We are always in need of additional volunteers to fill our classroom helper and teacher substitute spots. If anyone is interested, please contact Debbie Fox

Zion's Children's Choir, with its New Wrinkle

Our new children's choir schedule is working out great this year! The children are practicing in two groups: Group #1, which is Pre-K through 1st grade; and Group #2, the 2nd through 6th grades. Group #1 practices from 9:10-9:20 a.m., and Group #2 practices from 9:20-9:30 a.m. The children will meet in the Choir Room and have practice each Sunday at these times, and then will go to their Sunday School class. The two groups will alternate singing each month at the 10:30 a.m. service. As we look ahead, Group #2 (the older children) is scheduled to sing on October 7th, and Group #1 is scheduled to sing on November 4th. Once again, we extend our thanks to Suzanne Walters for all of her time and commitment, and the great job she does with our children and their voices!

Confirmation Instruction and the High School Class

Renee Schrader is leading our Confirmation Class this year for Zion's 7th and 8th graders. This class meets at 9:15 a.m. in the Resource Center each Sunday. Our Confirmands are currently studying the Old Testament as part of the Here We Stand curriculum, which we've been using for a couple of years. The material is interesting; our students are great; and our teacher is fabulous. Now is the time to come aboard if you are ready for Confirmation.

We are off and running with this year's High School class. We are thrilled to announce that Tina Beaber is now leading the class, with help from Linda Ross, Steve Ross, and Wayne Slease. We meet in the Youth Room. This class will be working on a Service Project, along with

some great lessons that will help them continue to build a strong foundation of faith and service in God's love for their lives.

The High School & Confirmation Classes would like to thank Carol Rossbach for leading them as they made Lutheran Prayer Beads during Sunday School last month. Carol has such an aesthetic gift; and our youth loved the beads. We often learn more than we anticipate when we discover what other traditions have known for years.

Zion's Fall "Oktoberfest" Youth Missions Craft Show News

The Craft Show is fast approaching! Zion's Youth will once again have a table at this year's show. The kids will be making beautiful Christmas ornaments that will be for sale during the craft show. They will also be selling cookbooks. We will also have great raffle baskets again, which will be donated by the Sunday School classes. Raffle Tickets for these baskets will go on sale Sunday, October 7. The cost will be 3 for \$1 or 20 for \$5. The baskets will be raffled off the day of the Craft Show, which is Sunday, October 20. This year's baskets are as follows:

The Basket Just for Boys: Our Pre-K, and the Kindergarten & 1st Grade classes
The Basket Just for Girls: Our Pre-K, and the Kindergarten & 1st Grade classes
Chocolate & Sweet Treats Basket: Our 2nd & 3rd Grade class
The Fun for the Family Basket: Our 4th, 5th & 6th Grade class
Ultimate Ohio State Fan Basket: Our Confirmation class
The Really Pamper Yourself Basket: Our High School class

This craft show will raise money for the Youth of Zion, and help with expenses for mission trips and youth events. Zion's youth and youth leaders will be selling tickets for the German Take-Out Dinners for the low, low price of \$7.00 each. Please support the Youth of Zion as they serve God by helping others in need.

Calling All Youth: Our youth will be needed on October 20th to help with the Craft Show. We will need our youth to staff the youth table, help the other crafters unload, help in the concession area and bake sale table, and any other odds 'n ends that come up during the course of the day. There will be Sign-up Sheets in Luther Hall for all who can help! There will also be Sign-up Sheets for the congregation in Luther Hall for food items, bake sale items, set up, and help during the craft show. Your support as always is greatly appreciated!

MEN OF ZION NEWS

Zion's Congregational Pig Roast was a fabulous success! Even with the rain, we enjoyed great fun, delicious food, and the presence of just about two hundred friends to share in the beginning of a new program year. Our Singing Chef, and his great kitchen crew, served up a feast with roast pork heading the menu. We also enjoyed barbequed chicken, with baked beans, potato salad and coleslaw, and plenty of sides, drinks and desserts. The Women of Zion helped with the sides and desserts, and the Men of Zion provided the main course and plenty of drinks.

Steve Ross and Mark Votaw made sure that everyone had lots of fun with the dunk tank, while Lorraine and Chase Weinman helped Kelly and Kevin Walters win our 50-50 raffle! Our hats are off to Debbie Fox & friends for all their help in keeping our kids engaged with all sorts of fun 'n games. and our thanks to everyone who invited friends and family to join us. It was clear

to see that dozens of Zion's members made sure to expand the A-list to include lots of folks our Lord was happy to see enjoying the day here at Zion. Several of the families we serve through our Food Pantry & Clothing Closet were here. What a great testimony to growing in love and service by grace.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, October 3rd, when, in addition to gathering in Luther Hall for dinner at 6:00 p.m., the Men of Zion will be sure to take plenty of time to enjoy the accolades for another great Rally Day Pig Roast. After patting ourselves on the back, we will need to talk more about the Outdoor Work Day Chris Thomas has planned for the morning of Saturday, October 13th. As usual, food will be involved - breakfast burritos at 8:00 a.m., and perhaps something great for lunch, too. We need all the help we can get.

THANK YOU'S AND MORE

Dear Pastor Sherwindt and members of Zion,

I thank you so very much for your visits and prayers while I was hospitalized following my surgery on August 21. Louise told me of some of your visits that I don't remember. You were and are a blessing to Louise and me. At a time when I was so very sick and weak, you seemed like a tower of strength.

When we first came back to church, with every hug I shed tears - tears of weakness and tears of joy, and they were unexpected. you, again, for everything.

Please accept our thanks to you, and to Zion's people. I pray God will bless you for what you have done for us in our hours of great need

Bless you all,
Mel Lindberg

REACHING OUT IN LOVE

Blanket Sunday is October 7th. We hope that you have found some bargains on buying blankets. Please bring them to church with you for Blanket Sunday. We ought to have one colorful display covering our pews when we add your blankets to the quilts that Zion's Comfort Givers have been working on in Luther Hall throughout the year. It is always a sight to see!

Our blankets and comforters become a part of a larger shipment through which Lutheran World Relief delivers blankets, quilts, school kits and health kits to families all across the globe, including such places as Armenia, Azerbaijan, Botswana, China, Ghana, India, Liberia, Peru, Sao Tome, Sierra Leone, Thailand, Zambia, just to name a few.

With your help we have already put together 45 health kits and 75 school kits this year, easily surpassing last year's effort, when we were able to pack more than 92 blankets and comforters into our 44 boxes weighing 804 pounds! Let's see if we can do even better with Blanket Sunday on October 7.

Then, on Thursday, October 11th, we will gather in Luther Hall at 9:30 a.m. to begin packing

all of our items in boxes so that they can be driven over to Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Seville on Saturday, October 13th. Please join us if you are able to help.

OCTOBER SENIOR BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to:



Fran Tucker	October 5
Blair Woodside	October 6
Peggy Leed	October 10
Gert Meyer	October 11
Helen Alex	October 11
Bill Benton	October 11
Dick Findlay	October 11
Mary Corbett	October 12
Aleene Heist	October 12
Dorothy Anderson	October 14

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Anniversary to:

Mike & Diane Dunphy	October 1
Dean & Donna Yoder	October 5
Ken & Debbie Elsass	October 9
Rob & Lisa Frock	October 9
Mike & Jayne Schrader	October 17
Ralph & Bridget Edwards	October 18
John & Beth Fromholtz	October 22
Allan & Mary Humbert	October 24
Dick & Edna Smith	October 26
Jeff & Cindy Ferry	October 30

OUTREACH AND SERVICE

Why can't you take a turkey to church? Because they use foul language.

For seven years we at Zion have promised to never let a fellow human go to bed hungry. Our motto is, "If I won't eat it, I don't expect someone else to." Unfortunately, that motto is not always a reality, because decent food can at times become a rarity, especially when we depend on donations. It is a constant struggle balancing quality items and the amount of funds we have to purchase what we need every month. Our pantry is stocked by food donations or by purchasing it at the Akron/Canton Food Bank. We truly rely on the generosity of monetary donations, and we are thankful for your generous support. Every week persons put some money in the offering plate for us, and we can use every little bit.

Once again, Thanksgiving is right around the corner. Zion's Food Pantry began planning for Thanksgiving in August. For seven years we have placed feasts on the tables of 75 Stark County homes (approximately 300 individuals). Their tables are filled with rolls, vegetables, stuffing, potatoes, gravy, fresh cranberries, applesauce, a 12-pound turkey and a pumpkin pie. The pies once again are being baked and donated by members of The Newcomers Club of North Canton, and the potatoes are being donated through your local Curves. We already have gravy and apple-sauce tucked away in the pantry. What we need from you, the members of Zion, is for everyone to donate a 10-12 lb. turkey. We now have one in our freezer and need 74 more. If you do not wish to shop, we would gladly accept a monetary donation and we will shop for you. We need your turkeys or money donations by Sunday, November 11th.

What happened when the turkey got into a fight? He got the stuffing knocked out of him!

DID YOU KNOW?

Dedication of three new Habitat Homes: First Lutheran Church - located at 909 East Tuscarawas Street in Canton - invites you to a Dedication Celebration on the afternoon of Saturday, October 13, beginning at 2:00 p.m. With the help of Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity, and the partnering of our sister Lutheran congregations in the area, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Stark & Carroll Counties proudly opens the doors of three new homes for local families. Following the dedication ceremony, all of invited to enjoy a punch & cookies reception in the fellowship hall. Tours of the newly dedicated homes will also be possible. Please contact Darrel Rice at darrelrice@verizon.net (or 330-862-2944) for additional information.

Lutheran-Catholic Covenant Celebration set for Sunday, October 28, 2007, beginning at 2:30 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Church on West Tuscarawas Street in Canton. The theme for the gathering is Bread of Life: Roman Catholic and Lutheran Understanding of the Eucharist. Bishop Elizabeth Eaton of the Northeastern Ohio Synod and Bishop Geroge Murry, SJ, of the Catholic Diocese of Youngstown invite you to enjoy an afternoon of prayer, study, food, and fellowship. Guest presenters include the Rev. Jared Wicks, SJ, of John Carroll University in Cleveland and the Rev. Dr. Cheryl Peterson of Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus. The day begins with registration at 2:30 p.m., three opportunities for presentation and discussion, closing with Evening Prayer at 5:45 p.m. and a common meal at 6:30 p.m. We are hoping that individuals will register by October 15. with a \$10.00 fee to cover the cost of dinner. Please

contact Pastor Sherwindt for more information, or visit the Lutheran-Catholic Covenant website at www.lccovenant.org.

YOU ARE BLESSED!

In Matthew's Gospel, this is the first word out of Jesus' mouth. It was his first sermon, and he begins with the promise that you are blessed! "Blessed are the poor in spirit ... Blessed are the meek ... Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness...."

You are invited to join the Women of Zion on the third Tuesday of each month, which will be the 16th in October, as they continue their study of the Beatitudes. September's study made an interesting connection between Jesus' first sermon in Matthew 5, the Beatitudes, and his last sermon in Matthew 25, which warns of the last judgment. Here's what Martha Stortz writes: "Traditionally known as The Great Judgment, the last words in Jesus' public ministry could also be called Revisiting the Beatitudes, because here Jesus reveals himself as the one who hungers and thirsts, one who is meek and mournful, naked and sick and imprisoned." Jesus' words are so very clear and piercing: "Just as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me."

We are being blessed with our study of the Beatitudes. Each blessing bears a promise. In September we enjoyed the overview. In October we will zero in on the first promise of blessing: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." There is so much to learn following the beatitudes as a compass for discipleship. Please plan to join us in October. That's Thursday, October 16th, at 9:30 a.m. in Luther Hall.

"Gracious God, we bless you, for you are the font and source 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 hands with your purpose. We pray, and praise, in the strong name of Jesus. Amen"

IN LOVING MEMORY OF BEVERLY LEE DANSIZEN

In Loving Memory of Beverly Lee Dansizen
May 11, 1937-September 8, 2007

Beverly was a person who was easy to love, a person whose presence is synonymous with words like supportive, upbeat, an active and positive person who was extraordinary at making others feel comfortable around her, comfortable with themselves, at ease and at home in her presence. What is clear is that she loved what Jim loved, and, to make their life complete, Jim loved Beverly. Their shared love blossomed fully into a love for family, for their community, and for God. These were gifts they cherished, responsibilities they honored, relationships and trusts they nurtured, cultivated, and strengthened through years of faithful service. God did well with this one. I can't help but think of that wonderful tribute to Moms that Erma Bombeck wrote some years ago. We occasionally read it on Mother's Day at Zion, and it surely fits here as we celebrate the life of Beverly Dansizen. It's called When God Created Mothers.

When the good Lord was creating mothers He was into His sixth day of overtime when an angel appeared, and said, 'You're doing a lot of fiddling around with this one.' And the Lord said, 'Have you read the specs on this order? She has to be completely washable, but not plastic; have 180 moveable parts, all replaceable; run on black coffee and leftovers; have a lap that disappears when she stands up; a kiss that can cure anything from a broken leg to a disappointed love affair, and six pairs of hands!' The angel circled the model of a mother very slowly, 'It's soft,' said the angel. 'But tough!' added the Lord. 'Can it think?' 'Not only think, but reason and compromise!' Finally, the angel bent over and ran her finger across the cheek. 'There's a leak. I told you. You were trying to put too much into the model.' 'It's not a leak. It's a tear,' said the Lord. 'What's it for?' 'It's for joy, and sadness, disappointment, pain, loneliness, and pride.' 'You're a genius!' said the angel. The Lord looked somber and a bit sheepish. 'I didn't put it there.'

Mothers are a creative work in progress, and Beverly is just what the Lord had in mind. Six pairs of hands, three sets of eyes, soft and tough, a wonderful gift from above, formed with just the right mix of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. "There is no law against such things," Paul writes in Galatians, because these are gifts of the Spirit, gifts of God that abound among those who are in Christ Jesus. Beverly lived in Christ Jesus while she walked among us, and she remains alive in Christ Jesus today as she walks among the angels.

I've got one word of warning, though, not for us but for God. I will never forget that wonderful story Jim told me the other day remembering back to the days when Beverly was a real estate agent. He came home one day and Beverly joyfully exclaimed "I sold the house!" "Which house was that?" Jim asked, trying to share her enthusiasm and find out what troublesome piece of unmovable real estate Beverly may have finally moved. "Which house was that?" "This house!" She had sold their house, which wasn't even on the market! What was wonderful about that story was that Howard, Cindy, and Dale were in the room when Jim was telling it, and that was the first time they had ever heard why they moved from the house they loved! So, Lord, we know that you have prepared a house for Beverly. Otherwise why would you have said that you go to prepare a place for us, that where you are there we may be also. But Lord, be careful, You may come back from a day in the fields watching your sheep, and find that Beverly has sold the house, and like Jim and the kids you may find yourself looking for a new house to live in... but if it's any consolation, wherever Beverly is, that house is soon to become a home where everyone's family, all are welcome, and love abounds... in Jesus' name. Amen
