

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR:

We gathered in Luther Hall at around 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 29. There were more than thirty of us present. It was our Confirmation Dinner, we were hosting the five families of our seven Confirmands – the Keatings, the Mathies, the Porters, the Romans, and the Walters – together with eight Council members – Carol Rossbach, Jayne Schrader, Mark Votaw, Steve Ross, Betty Tracy, Chris Thomas, Bob Lancashire (and Linda) – along with Renee Schrader (Confirmation Instructor), Debbie Fox (Christian Ed. Chair), and Pastor Sherwindt. Dale Jacobs had been at the church all afternoon preparing an unbelievably delicious menu (as usual), with Caribbean Pork, potatoes *au gratin*, mixed vegetables, and homemade brownies topped with ice cream covered with whipped cream and chocolate for dessert. Let's face it, it's worth entering Confirmation just for the dinner! But there was more going on this evening than just great food.

First of all, we were there to congratulate our Confirmands. We have a rather diverse group this year, with three traditional students doing it the old fashioned way of two years of Sunday morning classes with Renee Schrader: Ashley Porter, Brooke Roman, and Kelly Walters. Then there were two holdovers from last year's Confirmation Class, who caught up on some missed time with Charlie Danner and Pastor Sherwindt leading a Sunday evening session with Ben Mathie and Matt Mathie. Finally, there were two (somewhat older) girls who transferred in from Trinity Lutheran Church in Canton, who wanted the benefit of some Confirmation instruction before becoming members with their mother. I'm talking about Marissa and Ronda Keating, whose mother, Miriam, is our Nursery Supervisor. All seven Confirmands are great kids with wonderful families who are a big part of our church family at Zion. What an honor it is to welcome them as confirmed members and full partners in our ministry of service at Zion.

And what a show of support that just about the entire Church Council was present to share in the evening! Between the preparations ahead of time, and being on hand to share their interest in person, our Confirmands had to know how proud we were of what they had accomplished. During the program after dinner, we were all moved by Tina Beaber's heartfelt invitation to take the time to share the love that comes with continued involvement in our church family. It was so apparent that our leaders serve out of love for our Lord and his people here at Zion. Mark Votaw got us to laugh at the very real needs that make the church such an important part of finding our way through life with friends who care and a God who loves us; Steve Ross reinforced this Good News with remarks that reminded us how much fun it can be to worship and serve with a church family that somehow is able to let you be yourself while you're finding out who you are. Everyone added something to make the evening simply extraordinary.

We are blessed to have such wonderful families committed to the life of the church, and Council members who care so much about the folks who make us who we are. I hope that the whole congregational family will be on hand this Sunday to witness this annual rite of passage. Then, make sure to join us the following Sunday for another rite of passage, passing on down the buffet line to enjoy yet another rendition of delicious food at Zion with the Mother's Day Breakfast in Luther and Memorial Halls between the services on May 11th!

In His Service and yours,
Pastor Mark Sherwindt

*A Word of Joyous Thanks
from Steve and Darla,
Eric & Justin Dague*

As we give thought to this incredible and wonderful gift that you and the Lord have provided for us, we quickly find that we will never be able to express in words what is in our heart. What this blessing means to our family far exceeds our ability to appropriately say thank you.

The money is most definitely helpful and will be put to very good use. There is no doubt about that. But much more than the monetary gift, we find ourselves thinking about, and being so greatly appreciative for, the thoughtfulness, the kindness, the willingness, the love, and the friendships behind the gift.

We can only try to imagine all of the planning and hard work that quickly put together such a wonderful program and evening for our friends and families to enjoy. For all of this we thank you.

This accident has been an unfortunate burden, but your actions have provided a true sense of relief and will help immensely as we continue with the recovery. We thank God for the love and support of so many friends and people who care so much. All of these things are in our mind and in our heart forever.

Please know that we will not forget this generous gift and loving gesture. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you to all!

[Between our church family at Zion, the Stark Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, and Steve and Darla's friends from all over the country, we raised an amazing \$25,000 with this gift of love!]

**INVITING ALL WOMEN
(CALLING ALL MEN)**

**OUR SIXTH ANNUAL
MOTHER'S DAY
BREAKFAST:**

**SUNDAY, MAY 11TH
BETWEEN THE SERVICES
9:15 A.M. - 10:15 A.M.**

Dale's World-Famous Frittatas
Oven-Warmed Cinnamon Rolls

Breads of All Sorts

The Best of Juices

The Freshest Fruit

The Finest Coffees

A Special Tribute to Moms at the

10:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Readings by the Youth of Zion



A Treasured Tradition, a Delicious Breakfast, a Treat for All
Created and Designed, Baked and Burnt, by the Men of Zion

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

We enjoyed yet another great meeting with a full Council and perfect attendance: Carol Rossbach, Jim Fidler, Jayne Schrader, Dave Palumbo, Tina Beaber, Steve Ross, Betty Tracy, Dale Jacobs, Mary Humbert, Chris Thomas, Mark Votaw, Bob Lancashire, and Pastor Sherwindt. We discussed much, accomplished lots, and looked ahead to some daunting challenges ahead.

The good news began with decisions by Shirley Cavender and Margaret Porter to remain with Zion's Food Pantry for the foreseeable future. All applauded their willingness to keep our ministry of service to our community strong and growing. Their seven years of dedicated faithfulness, commitment and leadership continues. Thanks be to God, and to all the folks who had a hand in keeping everyone on board.

We also learned from Dave Palumbo that our financial facts for March were strong, although seasonal expenses continued to dampen any cause for celebration. We are carrying a hefty operating budget deficit into the spring months; but we have also astounded all expectations of benevolence with our \$25,000 offering of assistance to Steve Dague and his family!

ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS FOR MARCH

March Income	23,162.67
March Expenses	<u>21,968.95</u>
March (Deficit)	(1,193.72)
Income thru March	56,246.67
Expenses thru March	<u>63,049.72</u>
2008 YTD Deficit	(6,803.05)
2007 YTD (Deficit)	(5,120.11)

We thank you for your generous support!

MORE COUNCIL NEWS

Parish Life Ministry: Bob Lancashire has announced that the 2008 North Canton Ministerial Association fourth season of coed softball is here. We begin play on Sunday, May 4th. The fee this year is \$300. We are still looking to make sure that we have enough women signed up to play. The schedule for Zion is as follows:

- 05/04 St. Paul (White), 5 p.m. on field #3
- 05/11 *No games scheduled: Mother's Day*
- 05/18 Cross Point UM, 4 p.m. on field #1
- 05/25 *No games scheduled: Memorial Day*
- 06/01 Northminster at 4 p.m. on field #3
- 06/08 Faith (UM) at 4 p.m. on field #3
- 06/15 *No games scheduled: Father's Day*
- 06/22 Walsh Team #1, 5 p.m. on field #3
- 06/29 Church of Lakes, 5 p.m. on field #3
- 07/06 *No games scheduled: Fourth of July*
- 07/13 St. Paul (Blue), 6 p.m. on field #3
- 07/20 Round Robin Tournament, Week 1
- 07/27 Round Robin Tournament, Week 2
- 08/03 Round Robin Tournament, Week 3
- 08/10 Round Robin Tournament, Week 4

Learning Ministry: Tina Beaber reported that our youth are planning a Service Day on the evening of April 30, when we will gather at the church at 5:20 p.m., and head down to the Refuge of Hope Soup Kitchen in Canton to serve dinner there at 6:00 p.m. Our dates for VBS set, *July 21—25*. This year's curriculum has been chosen: *God's Big Backyard*. Our focus will be on service: serve family, friends, neighbors, community, and Jesus. We also endorsed our slate of Confirmands this year (Marissa Keating, Ronda Keating, Ben Mathie, Matt Mathie, Ashley Porter, Brooke Roman, and Kelly Walters), and we agreed to return to an older tradition at Zion of hosting the Confirmation Dinner here at the church.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4TH

The Annual Election of members to serve on Church Council, and with the Deacons and Trustees has been scheduled for the first Wednesday in June, beginning with a Congregational Dinner in Memorial Hall at 6 p.m., and followed with our Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary at 7 p.m. The biggest item on the agenda will be our discussion of how to proceed with plans for updating Zion's heating and cooling systems. Due to the sprawling nature of our building, envisioning a different kind of system that creates an over-arching sense of unity for heating and cooling the church is untenable. So, we will go with pretty much the same piece-meal approach, only with newer pieces doing the heating and the air-conditioning. The details will be forthcoming as we approach our Congregational Meeting, but it looks like the following approach will guide the plan we intend to present for discussion and approval.

ZONE 1, which includes Luther Hall and Memorial Hall, presently uses overhead units for heating and cooling. We will replace both rooftop units, with plans to remove the radiators from Luther Hall at some future date. We will also replace the radiator unit in the entry way with a small electric unit.

ZONE 2 and **ZONE 4** heat and cool the office area (Secretary's office, Deacons' room, Education room, Pastor's office) are presently heated with radiators and cooled with a separate air-conditioner. We will use a single unit that will heat and cool these zones. The duct work already exists. We will eliminate use of the radiators. **ZONE 3** includes the Resource Center, Nursery, and Food Pantry, and is heated with radiators. There is no air-conditioning. We will use a single unit for heating and cooling these rooms, and add ductwork as is needed.

ZONE 5 is the Sanctuary. Presently, a rooftop unit provides air-conditioning and the radiators provide the heat. We will disconnect the radiators and perhaps remove them at a later date. We will replace the rooftop unit with one that will provide heat and air-conditioning, using the present forced air ductwork to accomplish both functions. The Narthex will also require some baseboard electric heat, with some refinishing thought given to removing the radiators.

ZONE 6 is the Education Wing. We will replace the boiler and use the present above-ground piping to heat this wing. We will not provide air-conditioning for these rooms. Eventually, we will need to replace the above-ground piping, since these pipes are about forty years old. We are getting estimates for what this cost might be. Senior Independence is presently heated with radiators that are connected to Zone 6. We will probably continue to heat Senior Independence with the radiators, since they, too, are above ground. We will install an air-conditioning system (with necessary ductwork), so that we can dispense with the practice of trying to cool Senior Independence with air-conditioning from Memorial Hall.

Our financing plan will be in place at the time of our Congregational Meeting. We suspect that half the cost will come from Undesignated Gifts in the Merrill Lynch account, and half will come from three-year pledges we will ask of our members. The Pledge Drive will get underway once the project is approved. We will not begin work on the new system until we have secured the pledges we need. This is not to say that we need to receive the money pledged in order to begin work, just that we need to reach the goal that we have asked our members to pledge.

GREAT NEWS FROM ZION'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Sunday, May 4: Celebration of Confirmation during our 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Sunday, May 11: Our Mother's Day Breakfast between the Services (No Sunday School)

Sunday, June 8: This is the Last Day of our 2006-07 Sunday School Year: Party On!

June 21st – 28th: Our Third Mission Trip to New Orleans is ... ON! Plan to join us!

Week of July 21st – 25th: Dates for Vacation Bible School are set: *God's Big Backyard*

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES: PRE-K THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL

During May, the children will continue to learn great stories from the Bible. As always, there will be fun lessons, crafts, games and snacks! There will be no Sunday School on Mother's Day, which is May 11, because we will all be enjoying a wonderful breakfast with our families hosted by the Men of Zion. This is such a wonderful tradition at Zion to celebrate our mothers.

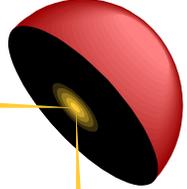
Sunday, June 8, will be our last day of class for the 2007—08 Sunday School Year. On Sunday, June 15, we will kick off the summer with a Celebration of Service during the Sunday School hour. This summer we will not have a formal Sunday School Program. Instead, we will have a service activity planned from 9:15a.m. to 10:15 a.m. throughout the summer. This activity will include all the kids from Pre-K through High School and will tie in to our Vacation Bible School program. Please join us this summer as we experience how important and wonderful it is to serve God and others.

WE'VE GOT A DATE FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for the week of July 21—25, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Join us as we have a great week of learning and fun in *God's Big Backyard!* The week will be all about service: *Serve Family, Serve Friends, Serve Neighbors, Serve Community and Serve Jesus.* As always, we will need plenty of volunteers to make our VBS a success. If you are available and interested, please contact Debbie Fox at 330-966-2433. If you are not available during that week, there are still many other ways to help out. In May and June, we will put out donation cans, along with sign-up sheets for the food and supplies needed for the week as well as sign-up sheets for the work days to do all of the prep work for VBS. We truly appreciate the support Zion always gives for this great event!



Spotlight on Confirmands



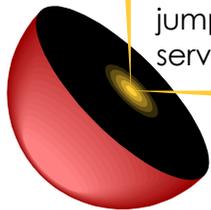
The Keatings – Marissa and Ronda are home schooled, with Miriam providing an excellent foundation for a lifetime of learning. Miriam has been married to Ron for twenty-five years. You probably run into Ron at the North Canton Post Office, which is where he works. Miriam and Marissa, who is now twenty, work as proof readers with Thomas Nelson Publishers; Miriam and Ronda share childcare responsibilities at First Friends. Marissa and Ronda have been willing to serve in many worship leadership roles, and are excellent readers. Ronda joined our New Orleans missionaries last summer. We hope that they will join us again this year. We have been blessed with their presence.

The Mathies – Matt and Ben are involved in just about everything, or so it seems to Amy, mother of four, and wife to Dave, who is a part of Mathie Supply on Portage Street. Their sister Lauren is a part of our Sunday morning Confirmation Class, and their youngest brother Zach has been a faithful part of our Sunday evening meetings, when Amy has always been prepared to feed the army of us who have shown up for *Worship and a Movie*. Ben and Matt are focusing more on academics as their Advanced Placement classes prepare them for life beyond high school. We've been blessed to have the Mathies as a part of our church, and their relation to "Uncle Chuckie" Danner makes them relatives to just about everyone at Zion!

The Porters – Ashley is the youngest of two daughters for Steve and Margaret; and like Amy, Ashley has grown up with Zion's Food Pantry, learning to love the service this ministry offers and the growth in grace that comes through focusing on others. Ashley has grown to become a very thoughtful young woman, not just in terms of thinking of others, but in terms of thinking seriously about issues we discuss in Confirmation and encounter in life. We have been so blessed to see Ashley grow up in our midst. How different each child is, and how wonderful it is to enjoy each of these differences fully.

The Romans – Brooke is another great example of watching the youngest of two sisters grow up in the church. She and Taylor have always been involved in everything at Sunday School, both because their Mom and Dad are so active, and because their Aunt Debbie (as in Fox) is our Christian Ed Director! There is nothing that Brooke hasn't done here at Zion, from reading at worship to singing in the Children's Choir, helping with Vacation Bible School, and working with every phase of our Advent Giving Tree. We are so blessed to have the privilege of inviting such beautiful young members to share in our ministry of the gospel and in the life of our church.

The Walters – Talk about sharing in all aspects of our church's life! Kelly, with her parents, Brian and Suzanne, active in just about everything that goes on at Zion, has probably thought that she lived at the church – and what a joy it has been to have her grow up at Zion. Kelly, like her parents, has been a phenomenal strength to our community, precisely because she is so talented and so willing to serve. Whether it's jumping in as a last-minute acolyte, reading during worship, helping with music, or serving in the Nursery, Kelly has been a gift from above, and we thank God for her.



THE WOMEN OF ZION

Our Bible Study in April focused on the peacemakers, reminding us that peace is Jesus' deepest desire for his disciples. Peace is, first of all, not a process but a person. We learn about peace by growing closer to Jesus the Prince of Peace. In May, we will continue to study the Beatitudes. Session 9 looks at *Blessings in the Midst of Suffering*, and talks about the fact that we are not blessed to look good, but to do good. When we do good, we are in fine company as we bear the face of Christ to our neighbor and each other. Plan to join us for our Bible study on **Tuesday, May 20th**, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in Luther Hall. If you have not yet joined us on our journey through the Beatitudes, this is the lesson that will bless you in learning to follow our Lord.

Zion's Comfort Givers meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, May 8th & 22nd, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in Luther Hall. We enjoy coffee, conversation, and being filled with the feeling of knowing that we are helping others through the good that we do. Please feel free (and invited) to join us.

Zion's Chancel Guild will meet on the third Tuesday in May, with our business meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. That's **May 20th**.

CHANCEL FLOWERS: We love to adorn our Chancel for our Sunday Services. The flowers are \$15.00 per vase and we can have up to four vases each Sunday. Flowers can be picked up after the 10:30 a.m. service, or if you prefer, you can leave them for the sick, shut-in, or hospitalized, in which case the Chancel Guild will deliver them. The vases can be reserved in honor of a birthday, an anniversary, or in memory of loved ones. If you are interested in reserving flowers, call Susan Heyard at 330-499-9858. Please, leave a message. Sue will respond to your call.

ODDS ' N ENDS AT ZION

Lutheran World Relief has issued its year-end shipping report. Nearly 1,500 tons of hand-made quilts, school kits, health kits, sewing kits, layettes and bars of new soap were shipped in 2007. Included in the shipments were 452,870 quilts sewn and tied by thousands of Lutheran quilters throughout the United States – the most quilts distributed in a year since 1999. “Over and over again we hear from our partner organizations and the recipients of the quilts and the kits how much they appreciate these gifts of love, and the generosity of Lutherans in the United States,” said Brenda Meier, director for parish & community engagement at LWR. “Any type of blanket could warm a person’s body,” she added, “but a handmade quilt also warms the soul and encourages the spirit.”

The Northeastern Ohio Synod Assembly is set to begin at the John S. Knight Center in Akron at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, May 16th. Our theme will be “*God’s Work, Our Hands.*” Our ongoing focus under Bishop Eaton’s leadership reminds us that *every congregation is a mission station*. Zion’s voting delegates are Carol Rossbach and Charlie Danner. Workshops include a look at race, human sexuality, the Bible, evangelism, prayer, and what it means that congregations are mission stations. The Assembly continues on Saturday, concluding at 12:15 p.m.

June 1st Reception for Suzanne Walters: No, the Walters are not leaving Zion; but Suzanne is rearranging her priorities to manage the expanding character of her responsibilities at work and at home. We at Zion have been so blessed with her many gifts, and with how generously she has shared them in shaping our music program, that we want to take some time between the services on **Sunday, June 1st**, to say *Thank You*. Please join us.

THANK YOU'S TO ZION

Pastor Sherwindt and the Men of Zion,
 We would like to thank you for inviting us to participate in the 20th Anniversary Reunion for the Lutheran Men in Mission. We join our partners in the Northeastern Ohio Synod in thanking you for a top notch program and hospitality of the highest caliber. We thank the Men of Zion for the wonderful meal.

*Best regards,
 Richard Noll, Secretary,
 LMM – Northwest Ohio Synod*

Pastor Sherwindt and Members of Zion,
 On behalf of my family and our mother, Eileen Johns, I would like to thank you for all that you did – at the hospital, visiting with our families, and taking care of the funeral service. Your kind message of comfort was deeply appreciated and is gratefully acknowledged.

*In Christian love,
 Darlene & Bob Kail*

MAY SENIOR BIRTHDAYS

- May 3 Art Edwards
- May 5 Flo Jensen
- May 9 Don Hertler, Sr.
- May 9 Bruce Findlay
- May 13 Don Achauer
- May 18 Carolyn Elsass
- May 21 Ron McKimie
- May 21 Linda Wilson
- May 22 Patty Stayer
- May 28 Betty Tracy
- May 29 Gladys Miller

ANNIVERSARIES IN MAY

- May 8 Darlene & Lou Milavickas
- May 9 Susan & Jim Whalen
- May 21 Debbie & Dean Fox
- May 23 Evelyn & Larry Moore
- May 24 Nicole & Brian Milek
- May 30 Cheryl & Herb Beadle

REACHING OUT IN LOVE

Margaret and I could not walk away from feeding the hungry. As much as we tried, our collective souls could not turn away from the people less fortunate than ourselves. We don't know why we have this commitment embedded within us. Maybe part of it was born in us. Maybe it arose out of what we have experienced throughout our own lives. But I believe it comes from our desire to do what Jesus commanded all of us to do.

This past week, I was again reminded why Margaret and I, the Pantry Crew and the Clothing Closet Gang work so hard. Each week we have provided food for nourishment and met the clothing needs for many families. We have also provided a friendly and sympathetic ear to those we serve, and access to a wide variety of community services.

Recently, I met a woman in need of emergency food. During our initial phone call, she shared with me her recent break-up from an abusive spouse. I then learned about her lack of finances, lack of furniture, and lack of food. She is the mother of two boys, one in middle school, one in high school. In our conversation she wondered whether maybe she should have stayed in the marriage, so that at least they could eat. What an alarming thought! One of her children has been diagnosed as bi-polar, and she didn't know where to turn. I let her know how proud I was of her for breaking the cycle of violence. I told her we would always feed her and her children until she becomes self-sufficient. I told her also that I would be able to guide her to a mental health advocate who would help her access treatment for mental illness.

Our role at the pantry is not simply handing out food. We try to tend to the soul of our clients. With Zion's ongoing commitment, we will continue in the care of God's flock.

God bless – Shirley and Margaret

IN LOVING MEMORY OF ILA MAE GIVLER

August 20, 1925 – April 8, 2008

You can have only one mother, patient, kind and true, no other friend in all the world will do.

For all her lovingkindness, she asks nothing in return.

When all the world forsakes you, to your Mother you can turn....

You can turn to your mother for love, support, gentle affirmation, encouraging words, a warm embrace, or that quiet nod that makes it clear that you're going to be fine, that everything's okay. Ila Mae was that kind of mother, and grandmother, aunt, sister, and friend, with six children, nine grandchildren, nineteen great grandchildren, a wonderful family, close-knit, fun-loving, with many right here in Stark County. What a life, and what a family Ila Mae was able to enjoy for eighty-two wonderful years, filled with all the things that are most important – faith in the good Lord and faithfulness you can count on in one another. These are the ties that bind our hearts in love; and Ila Mae was at the heart of it all, with a heart that was big enough to find room for every one of you, any time, and all the time.

You know, I have got to say that 2008 was a year to forget for Ila Mae Givler. It was unlike any other she had experienced and enjoyed, and Ila Mae was a woman who could find the good in just about anything. Ila was known for her resiliency. I don't know how many times she confounded doctors with her ability to bounce back quickly after major surgery and serious problems. 2007 was that kind of year. I had come to expect nothing less, as have all of you. But that was not to be in 2008, even though the daily news seemed generally good, and the doctors worked miracles in stabilizing her vitals and moving her in the right direction, from ICU to the step-down unit, and then from Mercy to the Arbors. Despite the daily dose of good medical news, Ila Mae seemed to know that God's good news would come in a different form, when he would call her home to heaven.

Many of you know that I am not inclined to call death a friend, regardless of the length of our dying or the circumstances of our end. This weekend, the Fourth Sunday of Easter, always honors the image of the Good Shepherd, combining the wonderfully endearing images of the 23rd Psalm with the powerful words of John 10, where Jesus tells us that he is the One whose voice the sheep recognize and follow, that he is the Good Shepherd, who lays down his life for the life of the sheep. He came that we might have life, life in all of its abundance. The thief, on the other hand, comes only to kill, and steal, and destroy. That's who death is. That's what death does. Death steals those whom we love from our care, destroying the love and the life we've come to value, hold dear, and treasure. Our hearts don't lie; and even though we know that Ila Mae is in a better place, called home to be with God, that doesn't diminish the grief of losing her, the pain that comes with death's ripping those whom we love from our embrace, leaving our hearts torn and our lives in shambles. It is God, not death, that turns Ila Mae's passing into Good News.

Ila Mae knew God, and loved God. What is more, God knew Ila Mae, loved her, and loves her still. God's love is what turns the sadness of our loss into hope for still more tomorrows, not like those we've known and treasured, but richer and fuller. That's what God's Word and promise describes in the Book of Revelation. "I saw a new heaven and a new earth; and I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'The presence of God is with His people.... He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will there be any mourning nor crying nor pain of any kind, for the old has passed away. Behold, I make all things new!'" This is the promise that makes all the difference. God's faithfulness makes it sure, and Jesus' love makes it ours. To that we say, Amen.