

June 2008 Newsletter

GREETINGS FROM THE BOILER TASK FORCE

Throughout the course of the past three years, our Council has been leading an effort to assess the costs of replacing an aging boiler and the pipes that are rotting under the concrete floors of the office area and Luther Hall. The long process of investigating options, assessing proposals, and formulating recommendations came to a close Wednesday evening with the Congregational Meeting that overwhelmingly approved the Contractual Proposal presented by Jim Fidler and the Financing Plan outlined by Laura Thompson. Both our discussion and our decisions displayed a congregation of one mind about the need to act. The specifics of our Contractual Proposal are included on the next page. Now that we have decided to act, the need for your help in meeting the financial obligations we will incur is at hand. That is the reason for the letter that follows.

Dear members and friends of Zion,

We are about to undertake a very difficult project, replacing an aged heating, ventilation and air conditioning system (HVAC). Our present system has served us well for many more years than we could have reasonably expected. Some parts of the system are as old as our present building. Other parts are a little newer, as in thirty or so years old. But all are in need of replacement. Details of the needs have been distributed and discussed over the past several years. Our intent here is to concentrate on the urgency of the fundraising required. All we can say is that we need this HVAC upgrade, and that we won't be able to proceed without your generous support.

Basically, we need \$30,000 a year for two years to meet our share of the total required. As we think of the mix that will be needed to reach this goal, we can hope for a single big giver, or for many givers of smaller amounts. We are looking for a mixture of both. We will need to find 2 or 3 givers who will pledge upwards of \$2,000 a year for two years. We will also need 3 or 4 givers who will pledge \$1,000 a year for two years. We will need 10 givers who will pledge \$500 a year for two years. We will need another 15 givers who will pledge \$250 a year for two years. We will need another 40 givers to pledge \$100 a year for two years. We are already thinking about fundraising events to help make up the difference that will get us to the goal we have set. But the basic challenge resides in the strength of our willingness to give what is needed to get the job done.

We now know about the need. We know that this is something that we should do, and that it is something that we can do. We have included a pledge card with this letter to guide your consideration of helping us respond in our desire to address the need. In the coming weeks, a small group of dedicated members will call the rest of us to ask about your willingness to pledge your support. We hope that you will hear God's call in our request, and respond with a generous YES to the needs we've encountered in the course of serving our Lord here at Zion Lutheran. Again, the choice is *one big GIVER*, or a community of many givers joining together to make the miraculous happen. There is no doubt that we can do this, and that, with your help, we will.

Your partners in ministry,
The Boiler Task Force

THE HVAC CONTRACT PROPOSAL

THE CONTRACT PROPOSAL: We are asking the congregation to approve the Council's entering into contractual agreements with Whisler Plumbing & Heating (and such other entities as necessary) to effect implementation of needed renovations to Zion Lutheran's heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems for an amount not to exceed \$120,000.

The Contract Proposal by Whisler Heating & Plumbing for Zion Lutheran Church entails the following:

- **Concerning Zone 6 (Educational Wing and Bixler):** Whisler proposes demolishing the old boiler and installing a new boiler and hot water heater at a cost of \$22,357.00.
- **Concerning Zone 1 (Luther Hall, Memorial Hall and Kitchen):** Whisler proposes a new heating and air conditioning unit and piping in Luther Hall and a similar unit in Memorial Hall at a total cost of \$24,577.00. These units would have one year warranties, with four year warranties on the compressors and nine year warranties on the heat exchangers.
- **Concerning Zones 2 and 4 (Church Office Area):** Whisler proposes a heat pump and AC unit, with a limited five year parts warranty on each at a cost of \$5,480.00.
- **Concerning Zone 3 (Nursery, Resource Center, Food Pantry):** Whisler proposes a two stage gas furnace and one AC unit, each with a five year limited parts warranty, at a cost of \$14,286.00.
- **Concerning Zone 5 (Sanctuary):** Whisler proposes a gas/electric rooftop unit, with a one year warranty, at a cost of \$18,848.00.
- **Concerning Zone 7 (Senior Independence):** Whisler proposes a single piece HP/AC unit, with five year limited parts warranties, at a cost of \$12,123.00.

The total cost estimate from Whisler is \$97,671.00, a figure that has remained the same since October, 2007. We have a very old estimate from another company as to the cost of asbestos removal in connection with replacing the old boiler of \$6,650.00. Furthermore, there will be additional expenses incurred as we respond to needs that arise with the renovations to the HVAC system contemplated by the Whisler proposal, needs like removing unnecessary radiators from Luther Hall, heating the Narthex without radiators, heating the entry way into Luther Hall from the parking lot. These additional items bring our total cost estimate to a figure not exceeding \$120,000.00. [This passed by a vote of 54 for, 4 against, 1 abstention.]

THE FINANCING PLAN: We propose raising half the money needed through new giving, and half the money through Undesignated Gifts & Memorials in our Merrill Lynch account. We are asking that \$60,000 be funded with pledges from the congregation, and are launching a pledge drive immediately with the goal of receiving 40% of \$60,000 in pledges in 4 weeks. The other \$60,000 will be funded through Undesignated Gifts & Memorials, with Council to determine, dependent on market conditions, the timing of disbursements along with the ability to use commercially available loans. [This passed by a vote of 58 for, 1 against.]

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The evening began with a delicious dinner prepared by the Singing Chef and served by our Church Council. Attendance was great. It set the stage for a great meeting in the Sanctuary, which included three excellent presentations by Mark Votaw, Jim Fidler, and Laura Thompson, which inspired constructive discussion about the proposed contract with Whisler Plumbing & Heating for a new heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning system (HVAC), along with our plans for financing it. The votes were decisive, both in terms of deciding to move ahead and for the spirit of mutual support that was so evident.

Our full slate of candidates was accepted for service with the Church Council, Deacons and Trustees. Jim Fidler begins his 1st full term as Vice President; Jayne Schrader, her 2nd term as Council Secretary; Mark Votaw, his 1st full term as Resource Ministry Elder; Mary Humbert, her 2nd term as Caring Ministry Elder; Steve Ross, his 2nd term as Witness Ministry Elder; Linda Lancashire, her 1st term as Parish Life Ministry Elder; Beth Shaheen, her 2nd term as Trustee; Bob Lancashire, his 1st term as Trustee; John Rhodes, his 1st full term as Trustee; Rob Frock, his 2nd term as 8:00 a.m. Deacon; Randy Cizek, his 2nd term as 10:30 a.m. Deacon. We thank Carol Rossbach for finding these candidates, and we thank these candidates for their willingness to serve.

Many persons have played a role in looking into the problems posed by our heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system. Jim Fidler took the time to mention the previous leadership offered by Lorin Beaber, and the full complement of Task Force members (Carol Rossbach, Chris Thomas, Mark Votaw, Laura Thompson, John Brokloff, Charlie Danner) and part-time advisors (Jim Lanzalotta and John Long). Our thanks to all!

GREAT NEWS FROM ZION'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

UPCOMING EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Monday, June 2: It's our first Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting

Sunday, June 8: It's the last day of the 2006-07 Sunday School year

Monday, June 9: It's a Sunday School & VBS Work Day at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 15: It's Father's Day, the first Sunday of Summer Sunday School

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

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

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

Sunday, June 8, will wrap up this year's Sunday School Year! We have had a great year of lessons, an awesome Christmas Program and Easter Program, and a lot of fun learning about God's word and amazing love. Thank you to our Sunday School teachers and staff. You have done a great job this year! We truly appreciate your dedication to the children of Zion. This year's staff includes some great teachers and caring Christians: Corlene Coulter, Vicki Givler, Mary Humbert, Connie Riffle, Melissa Riffle and Janet Slease.

On Sunday, June 15, we will kick off the summer with a Service Celebration during the Sunday School hour. This summer we will not have a formal Sunday School program. Instead, we will have a service activity planned every Sunday from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

throughout the summer. This service activity will include all the kids from Pre-K through High School, and will tie into our VBS program, which also focuses on service. Dress the kids casually and comfortably because our activities will include working outside, baking, making cards and kits, and much more. Please join us this summer as we experience how important, gratifying and satisfying it is to serve God and others.

THANK YOU'S TO THE CATECHISM AND HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES

We would like to thank Renee Schrader for teaching the Catechism class this year. She does a fabulous job and receives high praise from her class! What can we say, except that we appreciate Renee for all of the support she offers through the many roles she has embraced at Zion! Also, thank you to our High School Sunday School leader, Tina Beaber, and her helpers, Linda & Steve Ross, for all you do with our kids. We appreciate all of your support and dedication. There were great projects, lessons and discussions that were very important to our High Schoolers' spiritual growth as members of Zion. We are very proud of all these classes accomplished this year. Catechism and High School students are invited to attend Sunday School this summer. They will continue their lessons and also help lead the younger Sunday School kids in some of their service projects throughout the summer.

GOOD NEWS ABOUT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School is fast approaching! VBS is scheduled for the week of Monday through Friday, July 21-25, from 9 a.m. to 2 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, with our five themes inviting us to Serve Family, Serve Friends, Serve Neighbors, Serve Community, and, of course, Serve Jesus.

We have a lot of great service projects this year, which will include quilt squares, school kits, charity banks and grocery totes. We will also collect food items for our Food Pantry. We have chosen *Habitat for Humanity* to be one of our charities to which we will donate part of our daily offering, and we also hope to have a special guest from *Habitat for Humanity of Greater Stark and Carroll Counties* to speak to the children during the week. Now hear this: families in Zion's congregation can also help donate items for these service projects. Lists of needed items will be available at the end of the month. It's all about service, serving God by serving one another.

Music will also be a highlight of the week, led by Suzanne Walters. We all know this is one of the kids' favorite parts of the week! The kids will also work on great crafts and participate in strong team building activities during the week. As always, we will have our Family Night with the Children's Program on Thursday evening, followed by our Ice Cream Social. The week will end with a great backyard celebration, including water activities, lots of games, and even more fun! Let there be no doubters. We are all believers when it comes to what will surely be a great week for our kids, staff and parents, as we all learn and experience how important it is to serve God and others in *God's Big Backyard!*

Registration forms and general information can be picked up in the Church Office starting Sunday, June 15. Vacation Bible School is designed for children ages 5 through those who have completed the sixth grade. We are always happy to have our older youth come back

and volunteer to help during the week. And here's some good news. Once your registration form is completed and turned in, you'll receive this year's music CD. So register early and often!

As always, we will need plenty of volunteers to make our VBS a success. If you are interested, please contact Debbie Fox at 330-966-2433. If you are not available during the week of Vacation Bible School (July 21-25), there are still many other ways to help out. Donation cans are out now, and you can begin to look for sign-up sheets for baked goods, food and supplies at the end of the month. Watch the bulletins for work days through June and July to help us clean up and prepare for our VBS week. Our first work day is scheduled for Monday, June 9, at 6:00 p.m. We appreciate the support Zion's family gives for this great event, and we look forward to your joining in the fun of a wonderful week in *God's Big Backyard*.

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

We enjoyed a great meeting with almost perfect attendance: Carol Rossbach, Jim Fidler, Jayne Schrader, Dave Palumbo, Bob Lancashire, Betty Tracy, Steve Ross, Mary Humbert, Chris Thomas, Mark Votaw, and Pastor Sherwindt. Our discussion focused mostly on preparing for our Congregational Meeting scheduled for June 4. Our slate of candidates to serve with Council, Deacons, and Trustees is complete. Our preparation of details for our HVAC proposal is well on its way to becoming a complete, coherent, and compelling presentation.

Our Treasurer's Report for April reported a good month for income, but we still lost ground against expenses. Our response to the Steve Dague Fund shows giving at record levels. However, the special funds do not help us meet the obligations of our operating budget. So, while income is very impressive, we still have significant work to do in getting closer to staying even with our expenses. Winter is now behind us, which means that, with a generous June, we can begin to make up ground against the deficit.

Parish Life Ministry: The fourth season of coed softball has arrived. We began play on May 4. The schedule for Zion is as follows:

- 05/04 Team Zion beat St. Paul (White)
- 05/11 No games scheduled: Mother's Day
- 05/18 Team Zion lost to Cross Point UM
- 05/25 No games scheduled: Memorial Day
- 06/01 Team Zion lost to Northminster
- 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: Our Service Day on the evening of April 30th went very well. Tina Beaber, Sue Everhart, Steve and Linda Ross were joined by Corey Beaber, Todd Cizek, Kelly Walters, Maddie Reffel, who brought a friend, and Nicole Ross, who also brought a friend. Our group of eleven drove down to the Refuge of Hope Soup Kitchen in Canton, where they served dinner at 6:00 p.m. In other news, planning continues on our third Mission Trip to New Orleans (June 21-28).

Worship Ministry: Plans are now underway to begin our search to find a replacement for Suzanne Walters. We are forming a Search Team, with Dale Jacobs, Brian Walters, Darlene Milavickas, Jayne Schrader and Pastor Sherwindt as its core. Our use of alternating organists for the 8:00 a.m. service will continue. The Praise Team will continue to serve as vocal leaders at our 10:30 a.m. service, with Marilyn Espe-Sherwindt playing the keyboard in June.

THE MEN OF ZION

A very big thank you to the Men of Zion for pulling together another out-of-this-world delicious edition of the annual Mother's Day Breakfast, complete with a powerful rendition of *Now Thank We All Our God* offered by the Men's Chorus, and a beautiful single red rose given to each of the women in attendance. The menu was world class; the service, filled with love; the event, another huge success that was enjoyed by everyone involved.

The Men of Zion will meet again for their regularly scheduled first Wednesday of the month get together for dinner on June 11 in Luther Hall. We had to postpone our meeting due to the Congregational Meeting on June 4. This meeting will mostly be about glorying in the success of our Mother's Day Breakfast. But we have also been asked to join the good folks at Israel Lutheran Church in Paris in helping with the construction of one of five Lutheran Habitat homes in the greater Canton area. See Steve Ross for more information.

Speaking about Habitat for Humanity of Greater Stark and Carroll Counties, Zion will host a group of volunteers from Illinois who plan to work with Habitat. They will arrive at Zion the evening of Sunday, June 8, and depart for home on Friday, June 13. The group is from Providence High School in New Lenox, Illinois. Twenty-five to thirty students plan to have a great time helping to build homes with Habitat. As many of us already know, Jayne Schrader is the Office Manager of our local Habitat office, and Jayne is thrilled with the role Zion will play in hosting a group of volunteer workers from Illinois. The group will be sleeping mostly in Memorial Hall, where there are restrooms and showers; but they have permission to use as much of the church as they need, as long as others are not using it.

THE WOMEN OF ZION

Our monthly Bible Study has moved on from the Beatitudes to a new theme, *Come to the Waters*, a Summer Bible Study written by Pr. Karen Bockelman, which will take us through August. June's session, entitled *Water, Water Everywhere*, focuses on the richness of water imagery in the Bible. For a desert people, water meant life and was a miraculous sign of God's goodness. From the beginning of creation in Genesis to the promise of New Jerusalem in Revelation, water signs and water narratives are a constant presence in Scripture. We would love for you to join us for our Bible study on Tuesday, June 17th, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in Luther Hall. You'll be glad you did, and so will we.

Zion's Comfort Givers meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, June 12th & 26th, 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.

Our Annual Chancel Guild Luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, June 10th, at the Waterford, beginning at Noon. The cost is \$9.50 per person, and reservations should be made by Sunday, June 8th.

CHANCEL FLOWERS: We love to adorn our Chancel for Sunday Services. The flowers are \$15.00 per vase and we can have up to four vases each Sunday. Vases can be reserved in honor of an anniversary, a birthday, or in memory of loved ones. If you are interested in reserving flowers, call Susan Heyard at 330-499-9858. In particular, if you are interested in reserving flowers for June 29, the Sunday is open. Make it a point to call Sue Heyard and leave a message. Sue will make sure that she responds to your call.

NORTHEASTERN OHIO SYNOD ASSEMBLY, MAY 16-17

(Report submitted by Carol Rossbach and Charlie Danner)

Imagine singing along with 500 other Lutheran clergy (40%) and lay people (60%) to a special arrangement of *BLESSED ASSURANCE* with piano and saxophone accompaniment. This was just one of the highlights from our opening worship in the spacious assembly hall at the John S. Knight Center in downtown Akron, leading us into our business of electing representatives to our Synod Council. Other Synod business included adoption of the budget and consideration of several resolutions.

Carol and Charlie thank Pastor and the congregation for allowing us to represent Zion at this yearly event. Other highlights included Bishop Elizabeth Eaton's report, workshops and an inspiring and informative keynote presentation by the Rev. Dr. Stephen P. Bouman, Executive Director of Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission, ELCA. Bishop Eaton presented her report with a mix of humor, passion and encouragement. She reminded us that a congregation dies when it is only thinking inwardly, stressing four points. (1) We need to be authentically Lutheran by proclaiming the Gospel of the Cross rather than a gospel of glory. (2) Because God deserves our best, we need to strive for excellence in

worship. (3) We need to worship with passion and excitement while recognizing that worship is not about ourselves but about God and his gifts of grace to us: Word and Sacraments. (4) We should be viewing ourselves as a *mission station* while recognizing that we are a church of abundance and wonder, with wonderful opportunities to share the Good News of Christ in our lives.

We attended a workshop by Rev. Mark Wilhelm, ELCA Associate Executive Director for Educational Partnerships and Institutions and Director for Theology in Daily Life. [Wow! That's a mouthful!] Pastor Wilhelm introduced a new initiative entitled *Book of Faith Initiative - Increasing Biblical Literacy*. Emphasis was given to explaining this as an initiative, not a program (because it requires initiative and creativity, rather than out-of-the-box instructions). This means that each congregation will decide what resources (of the many provided by the Synod) to use and what format will be most successful. A new Study Bible (NRSV) will be available in the spring of 2009 to assist the church in its desire to study the Bible.

In his keynote presentation, Dr. Bouman's message emphasized that WE ARE A MINORITY ON A MISSION, WITH A MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER. Several inspiring examples of our call to mission reinforced this message, including his experience as the Bishop of the New York Synod during the period that included 9-11, when his office in Manhattan gave him direct view of the twin towers falling. He encouraged us to feel a *mission excitement that stirs those who are stunned by the resurrection*. He observed that the Apostle Paul had no blueprint for church growth. He just had to hunker down with God's people and cultivate the love that came with Jesus' living presence. We need to rekindle that love in our churches today, through discipleship, good stewardship, and the study of scripture.

The 2008 Synod Assembly concluded with the installation of new council and committee members, along with an expression of thanks to all who made this a success and a blessing.

JUNE SENIOR BIRTHDAYS



Happy Birthday to:

Scott Gross	June 4
Ann Semple	June 16
Jack Gredlein	June 16
Margaret Brokloff	June 17
Marge Woodside	June 18
Evelyn Moore	June 18

Happy Anniversary to:

Cherie & Michael Henson	June 3
Margaret & John Brokloff	June 10
Marie & Mark Keaveny	June 17
Sharon & Rick Stout	June 18
Gary & Shirley Horton	June 21
Kathleen & Scott Gross	June 21
Cheryl & Walter Dietrich	June 23
Stella & Jim Smiley	June 24
Marge & Blair Woodside	June 25
Connie & Jeff Frank	June 26
Vicki & Len Swartz	June 27

THANK YOU'S TO ZION

Pastor Sherwindt and Members of Zion,

A big thank you to Pastor Sherwindt and Chuck Danner for visiting me in the hospital and at Woodlawn. Your visits and prayers were uplifting and appreciated. Thank you for all the prayers and cards sent to me and for the Chancel flowers, too. A special thank you to our Heavenly Father for laying his healing hands on me and returning me to good health.

In Christian love,
Larry Moore and family

An even bigger thank you to all the good folks at Zion and friends in the wider community who have helped make our Steve Dague Fund an even greater success than any could have hoped or imagined. The total now collected stands at \$26,843.51! What is even more awesome than following these numbers grow was watching Steve join his family in walking down the aisle for communion on that first Sunday back, May 18th. That's right, walking down the aisle!
