

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR:

July has been a month of Good News for Zion. It has been a fabulous month, filled for the most part with Vacation Bible School – planning for it, worrying about it, burning the midnight oil for it, getting ready with registration for it, and just plain going for it, with all the resources we could muster, all the energy we could manufacture, and all the faith, hope, and love we could provide. Words fall short when it comes to expressing the deep sense of gratitude we have for God, for members of our congregational family, for neighbors who cared enough to send their children, and for all the children who had the time of their lives with STUDIO GO GAME SHOW!

I'm still having trouble figuring it out. It didn't seem like the volunteers were volunteering, or that the donors were donating, or that leaders were stepping forward with the sense of commitment and interest that typically follows invitations to help with Vacation Bible School. But somehow everything came together – teachers, leaders, and helpers, in the classrooms, with our crafts, in the kitchen, directing music, preparing for ice cream socials, and organizing our daily service projects – everything came together to make STUDIO GO GAME SHOW one of our best efforts ever! I'm not kidding. It was scary thinking about what Vacation Bible School might be, and truly transformational enjoying what it turned out to be. Talk about the importance of learning to trust God: we lived it! Most of this newsletter is a testimony to the power of its message and the truth of God's promises. **GO Lead, GO Risk, GO Tell, GO Obey, and GO Serve:** that's what we did. And the results were truly amazing. Read more about these amazing results on pages 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 – lots of Good News about love-in-action and faith-at-work.

July has been a month of Good News for Zion. In addition to this Good News about Vacation Bible School, we've also experienced Good News with our finances. While June broke a string of three successive surpluses for the budget, July has put us back on track with a surplus surprise. It looks pretty good for continuing this momentum through August, too. We are very grateful for the generosity with which our members and friends rise to meet the challenges we face, and humbled, too, by how this generosity has held steady despite our heading into some of the most difficult economic times we have experienced since the Great Depression. How can we not thank God, and one another, for the gift of a strong congregational family, for the ties that bind, for the love we share, and the mission that is ours! Zion has been around for one-hundred-and-ninety-five years; and yet, with each new generation of members, we are able to experience and create new memories of heart-warming faithfulness that add luster to the witness of almost two centuries of God's people seeking simply to grow in love and service by grace.

I've said it before, but it never gets old, and I never grow tired of reminding us of how richly blessed we are with our community of fellow members who are committed workers in the cause of God's kingdom and the life of our church. What a great group God has assembled around us, and what a wonderful ministry we've been blessed to enjoy. July has been a wonderful month to celebrate the love that flows so freely and faithfully through the heart and hands of this family we call Zion Lutheran Church. I am certain that God has some good things in store for August, and more good things as we start our new program year in September. I encourage you to join us in the worship we offer, the love that we share, the service we render for the glory of God.

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

Our July meeting enjoyed the pattern of strong attendance, which has become our trademark: Jim Fidler (President), Susan Heyard (Vice President), Jayne Schrader (Secretary), Dave Palumbo (Treasurer), Mary Humbert (Caring), Linda Lancashire (Parish Life), Chris Thomas (Property), Cathy Harvey (Social Outreach), Mark Votaw (Resource), Tina Beaber (Learning), and Pastor Sherwindt. Dave Palumbo opened our meeting with a devotional reading and a prayer. Steve Ross and Dale Jacobs were unable to attend.

In his Treasurer’s Report for June, Dave Palumbo noted that we experienced our first monthly deficit since February, an anomaly that will probably not be repeated in July or August. Our expenses for June exceeded income by \$3,079.04. Since we entered the year with a \$7,609.95 carry-over surplus from 2008, we remain year-to-date cash positive by almost \$3,000. This compares favorably with the year-to-date deficit of just over \$3,000 we had at this time in 2008. So, we’ve got to feel good about where we stand as we enter the summer months.

<u>ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS FOR JUNE</u>	
June Income	14,428.10
June Expenses	<u>17,507.14</u>
June (<i>Deficit</i>)	(3,079.04)
2009 Carry-over Surplus	7,609.95
Income through June	<u>110,451.25</u>
Total Income YTD	118,061.20
Expenses thru June	<u>115,064.23</u>
2009 YTD Surplus	+ 2,996.97
2008 YTD (<i>Deficit</i>)	(3,027.93)
<i>We thank you for your generous support!</i>	

COUNCIL NEWS (CONT'D)

Parish Life Ministry: The North Canton Ministerial Association Coed Softball League has begun its second season, the Round Robin Tournament. Team Zion stood at 1-6 at the end of the regular season, and are 1-2 as we head into our fourth round of the tournament and eleventh game over all. It’s been a long campaign, not as successful as we might have liked, but a great season for the fifteen teams that competed this year. All of us at Zion, and the entire league, too, are grateful to Bob Lancashire for his softball savvy, attentive oversight, and effective leadership in keeping us well organized, on the right track, and growing. God has surely blessed us all through Bob.

An End of the Summer Party: We’re not quite sure who’s overseeing it, but we are sure that we’re going to have a great time on Sunday, September 6th. Mark Votaw took the lead in booking some very enjoyable music to entertain us for this *End-of-the-Summer Party* at Zion on the afternoon of Sunday, September 6. In addition to the great food we’ll enjoy, Parma-born singer/songwriter **Zach** – voted in June by the readers of *Akron Life & Leisure Magazine* as THE BEST LOCAL BAND, performing on-stage with folks like Dave Matthews, Neil Young, War, and Chicago – will be here helping us to have a fabulous time. Join us!

MAIN STREET FESTIVAL

Zion's Witness Team has for the second year running decided to join the fun of North Canton's **MAIN STREET FESTIVAL**, which is scheduled for the weekend of August 22—23. In honor of the occasion, the *Square of the City* will be closed to motorists from 5:00 p.m. on Friday through to 7:00 p.m. on Sunday. There will be live entertainment, food vendors, arts, crafts, children's activities, and a host of North Canton organizations celebrating the good news of how great it is to be a part of the North Canton community!

While we are now *old hands* at this Main Street stuff, we still plan to pull out all the stops and are planning to distribute all sorts of stuff, like Zion pencils and pads, with balloons, candy, and even washable tattoos. It should be great fun, and we'll need lots of help from our Zion family to help us spread the good news of our presence to all the folks who are lucky enough to meet us! We will need volunteers to help with hosting our booth in two-hour intervals on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and then again on Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**ZION WILL HOST OUR OWN
BOOTH AT
NORTH CANTON'S 13TH ANNUAL**

MAIN STREET FESTIVAL

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY, AUGUST
22—23**

**PLEASE HELP WITH TWO-HOUR
SHIFTS SIGN-UP SHEETS IN THE
CHURCH OFFICE**

A NEW CANTON PARISH

As of June 1, 2009, Bethel, Trinity, and First Lutheran Congregations have formed a new Canton City Lutheran Parish. They celebrated this beginning with an outdoor service, hosted by Bethel on July 12. The Parish Council consists of six members, two representatives each from Bethel, First, and Trinity. A Call Committee has been formed and at the Council's direction will be submitting a name for the person who will serve as the lead pastor for the Parish.

A programmatic ministries committee is being formed, with evangelism at the top of the list. Pastor Glen Zimbelman, the mission developer for Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church in North Ridgeville, will lead a workshop on *Connecting Others to Christ: Practical Ways to Do Evangelism for Shy Lutherans* on Saturday, October 17, 9 a.m. to Noon. All congregations in the Canton-Massillon Conference are invited to participate.

Pastor Abraham Allende will be concluding his service as Associate Pastor of the Parish on August 2, as he prepares for his new call at the Lutheran Church of the Covenant in Maple Heights. Pastor Darla Ann Kratzer continues to serve as the Pastor at Bethel Lutheran Church and the Interim Lead Pastor of the Canton City Lutheran Parish.

Mission Statement: Led by the Holy Spirit calling us together as the Body of Christ, we, as members of the ELCA, will combine and share our human and physical resources in order to be more faithful stewards of God's grace. This will enable us (1) to expand our efforts in service and witness to all in downtown Canton, the neighborhoods we serve, and the world community, (2) to enhance our worship experience, and (3) to grow together in Christ's love.

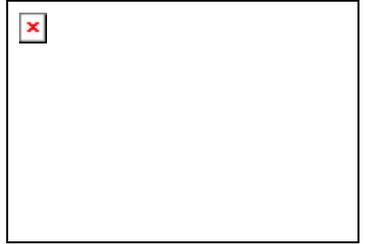
GREAT NEWS ABOUT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

This year another awesome group of kids joined us at *Studio GO Game Show* for a week of fun, learning, and service at Vacation Bible School, July 13 to 17. We are happy to say that we had 55 children registered this year, averaging about 51 children each day. The children experienced a wide variety of activities during the week: great lessons, music, crafts, games, an obstacle course, delicious food, many community service projects, and our Big Game Show Celebration.

In this year's lessons the kids got to meet characters from the Bible who were willing to put their trust in God and accept God's challenges for their lives. These lessons taught the children how important it is to trust God and to know that He is with us everyday, everywhere we go! Each day our Game Show Host, Wade Winalot, who was played by Pastor Sherwindt, introduced the daily theme and lesson with fun games and word scrambles. These games included *Let's Make A Deal*, *Follow the Leader*, *Simon Says* and the *Plastic Wrap Race*. The children had a lot of fun with these games and it set the tone for our great days of fun, service, and teamwork!

Monday's lesson was about Gideon and how he accepted God's challenge to **GO LEAD** the Israelites to a victory over the Midianites with only 300 men and no weapons. He used only trumpets, clay jars, and torches. Gideon overcame his fear and trusted in what God told him to do. On Tuesday, we met Queen Esther, who was willing to **GO RISK** for God by making a difficult choice – the right choice. She chose to approach the King uninvited, risking her own life, in order to ask that he save her people. As a result of this courageous choice, the King invited her to speak, and then granted her wish and saved her people. On Wednesday, we learned the story of the women who visited the tomb on the third day to discover that Jesus was alive! They took God's challenge to **GO TELL** what they saw. They were the first to share the Good News that Jesus was alive! Thursday's story was about the apostles and their willingness to put God first. They were challenged to **GO OBEY** God rather than men. The apostles continued to teach about Jesus as God commanded even after they were jailed for doing so. An angel freed them from jail, and after their great escape, they immediately went back to teaching about Jesus, which was the very thing that got them sent to jail in the first place. On Friday, the children met Saul and Ananias. Ananias was willing to accept God's challenge to **GO SERVE**. He put his trust in God and went to heal Saul, a man who persecuted Christians. Ananias healed Saul of his blindness. Saul then became Paul, the greatest apostle of all, and a faithful servant of God.

At the end of the day, Wade Winalot returned with Bonus Round questions about each day's lesson for our "Student-Studio" Audience and two other contestants, Professor Wordsmart and Coach Armstrong. By the week's end, our "Student-Studio" Audience far surpassed the other two contestants in their knowledge of the lessons. The children lived and learned about trusting in God and accepting His challenges to **GO LEAD, GO RISK, GO TELL, GO OBEY, and GO SERVE** all week long at VBS and at home! We extend a very special thank you to Pastor Sherwindt, Valerie Cizek, Alex Robbins, Christian Heller, and Randy Cizek for playing the roles in our *Studio GO Game Show* cast. They were so much fun and the kids – and the adults, too – enjoyed the daily skits, which were very funny and really entertaining.





MORE GOOD NEWS ABOUT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The children were challenged to memorize the week's Bible verse, Joshua 1.9, where God says, "*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.*" Carson Lancashire, a student from Miss Valerie's class, stepped up to the challenge and recited this verse in its entirety from memory during Friday's opening! What a great job!

We were very blessed this year to have a special servant speaker. On Tuesday, which was GO RISK day, Gary Coen, North Canton City Fire Department's Fire Inspector, came to talk with the children about fire safety and the risks that firemen take. The children presented Fireman Gary with thank you cards, a Bible verse pin, and a special bag of trail mix, which they made that day during their service project rotation. We are very grateful to Fireman Gary for taking the time to share such important information with the kids. He made a great connection, and the kids had a great time, and learned so much!

We had an awesome group of teachers & assistants at *Studio GO Game Show* 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! All of these wonderful volunteers are listed at the end of this article.

As always, music was one of the highlights of VBS. We offer a special word of thanks to Kelly Walters for leading the music this year. This was her first year as music leader, and she stepped in with great enthusiasm, with such excellent leadership skills that the children loved her, and worked hard for her! She did an amazing job teaching the kids the songs, motions and dances. She put together a wonderful program for the Ice Cream Social, which parents, family and friends truly enjoyed. The children really enjoyed this year's music – it was fun and the songs had such great meaning. I am sure they'll be singing and dancing to these songs for a long time! Thanks, Kelly, for taking the challenge to GO LEAD!

VBS crafts were once again outstanding, and we extend our thanks to the creativity, patience, organization, and flexibility of Connie Frank and her helpers, Cheryl Roman and Linda Ross. The kids really enjoyed this year's crafts and the finished products were great! The VBS "service projects" room was very busy all week! For this we thank Amy Mathie and all of her helpers for all of their hard work during the week. Everything went very smoothly, and the children really did some amazing work while learning the very valuable lesson of serving others. Thank you to Corey Beaber and Christian Heller, who led our Outdoor Games rotation all week. The kids loved going outside to play a variety of games that included a blindfolded obstacle course, relay races, egg tosses, the Royal Dress Race, Simon Says, and much more! These games encouraged teamwork and incorporated the daily themes in the decisions the children needed to make while playing the games. Finally, our kitchen crew gave us a great menu that the children loved! We also had a *Traveling Popsicle and Ice Cream Cart* each day that the children anxiously waited for! Each treat was 25 cents, and the money collected was added to our offering to be donated to our charities, the Humane Society and Zion's Food Pantry.

STILL MORE GOOD NEWS ABOUT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We finished the week strong, with the Parents’ Program and Ice Cream Social on Thursday evening, an annual event that is sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans; and then on Friday it was our Big Game Show Celebration, otherwise known as WATER DAY! The kids did a great job singing during the program and the Ice Cream Social was great! We extend our thanks to Janet Slease for taking care of the kitchen during the Ice Cream Social. Friday’s Big Game Show Celebration included carnival games, the big water slide, a slip & slide, water balloons, sponge tag, other water activities, an egg toss and pizza party. It was a perfect ending to celebrate a great week of service and all the kids’ hard work!

Zion’s ministry of Vacation Bible School is such a great success because of the contributions and commitments of all involved – the staff, the children, their families, and the congregation. Thank you to everyone who donated supplies, food, money and/or their time! The following is a list of staff and volunteers who were invaluable to me and Zion! Many of them offered themselves in many ways, and could be listed in more than one category. Let’s just say that everyone was willing to help out wherever they were needed! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

STUDIO GO GAME SHOW PRODUCTIONS
Our Director and Producer, Debbie Fox



Studio GO Game Show Staff:

CREW LEADERS:

Anna Sherwindt
Janet Slease & Sharon Stout
Tina Beaber
with Assistants, Darlene Dague & Tammi Fisher
Valerie Cizek
with Assistant, Alex Robbins
Renee Schrader
with Assistants, Josh Keith & Jayne Schrader

MUSIC LEADER:

Kelly Walters

WADE WINALOT:

Pastor Sherwindt

PROFESSOR WORDSMART:

Valerie Cizek

COACH ARMSTRONG:

Alex Robbins, Christian Heller, Randy Cizek

MORE ABOUT THE CREWS AT STUDIO GO GAME SHOW

OUR VBS KITCHEN CREW: Gary & Shirley Horton, Bob & Linda Lancashire, Flo Jensen, Darlene Milavickas, Dave Palumbo, Jayne Schrader, Chris & Peg Thomas, Laura Thompson, and Linda Wilson

VBS CRAFTS: Connie Frank, Linda Ross, Cheryl Roman

OUTDOOR GAMES: Christian Heller & Corey Beaber

ZION'S QUILTERS: Kay Davis, Ruth Elsass, Helen Edwards, Sue Geib, Joyce Gibeaut, Helen Heller, Juanita Meighen, Pat Stayer, Betty Tracy, and Linda Wilson

YOUTH HELPERS: Michelle Cohen, Kathryn Dreher, Allan Fisher, Sam Forsyth, Savannah Heller, Laura Kay, Josh Lafleur, Lauren Mathie, Ben Mathie, Matt Mathie, Brooke Roman, Taylor Roman, Maria Reynolds, Nicole Ross, Ashley SirLouis, Ben SirLouis, Brandon Stout, and Kevin Walters

OTHER VOLUNTEERS: Jeff Frank, Doug Roman, Gary Horton, Chris Thomas, and Dan Wilson

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT: Amy Mathie & Annie Forsyth

REGISTRATION: Vicki Givler & Cheryl Roman

PHOTO DVD: Kelly & Brian Walters

NEWSLETTER: Lisa, Taylor, and Brooke Roman

DECORATIONS: Carol Rossbach & Betty Lenz

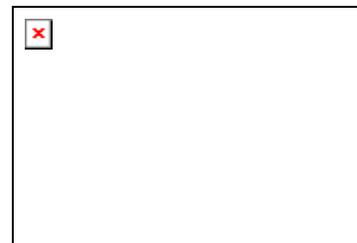
ICE CREAM SOCIAL: Janet Slease & Company

THRIVENT FINANCIAL FOR LUTHERANS, sponsors of our Ice Cream Social & Matching Funds

GAME SHOW CELEBRATION VOLUNTEERS: Randy Cizek, Darlene Dague, Susan Forsyth, Connie Frank, Vicki Givler, Betty Lenz, Cheryl Roman, Jayne Schrader, teachers & youth helpers

This year was once again truly amazing! Because of all the people mentioned above, our program was a great success. Zion is very blessed to have such a great group of volunteers who make our Vacation Bible School program one of the best! Everyone's flexibility, time commitment, and hard work are invaluable! We could not produce this wonderful 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, VBS Chairperson



DAILY SERVICE PROJECTS AT STUDIO GO GAME SHOW

This year the children were involved with many service projects during Vacation Bible School, mostly because we feel this is an important part of our VBS ministry. We had a very enthusiastic, caring and generous group this year, which made our projects a great success! Thank you to everyone for your support of all our projects.

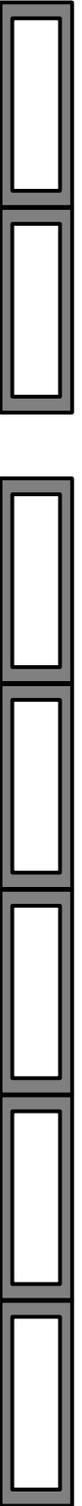
OFFERINGS: The boys and girls once again had a contest to see who could collect the most money during the week. All week they filled up jars, and in total collected \$442.44! The girls collected a total of \$201.99 for the week, and the boys \$240.45. This money, along with additional matching funds from Thrivent for the Ice Cream Social, and the money we collected from the ice cream cart, through the Bake Sale, and with the Quilt Raffle will be donated to the Humane Society and Zion's Food Pantry. The total of all these sources of giving turned out to be \$1,109.48! What a great job that was led by the kids! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

FOOD PANTRY: The children brought in food items to fill our *Winalot Wagon* in Luther Hall. These items will go to Zion's Food Pantry to help persons in need in our community! *Winalot Wagon* was filled to overflowing by week's end! Again, thanks to everyone for your support!

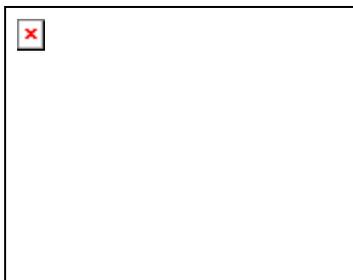
QUILT SQUARES: The children once again beautifully designed quilt squares this year. This has become a wonderful tradition at VBS for Zion. This year marked the thirty-first year that the Women of Zion have been sewing these beautiful quilts. Zion's Quilters were able to sew ten beautiful quilts and one lap blanket from the squares the children created. Nine of these quilts will be sent to Lutheran World Relief to help persons in need across the globe. Jeremy Fox, a student in Miss Tina's class, was the lucky winner of this year's Quilt Raffle, and he is very excited about keeping warm with his new quilt once winter arrives. Congratulations to Jeremy, and thanks to the children and to Zion's Quilters for all of your hard work!

DAILY PROJECTS: The children worked on special projects throughout the week to inspire them to GO Lead, GO Risk, GO Tell, GO Obey and GO Serve! In addition to the projects listed above, the kids brought in school supplies, which Miss Valerie's class sorted for our pantry families. On Tuesday, the children made trail mix for our North Canton risk takers – the police, fireman, and service workers. They made over 100 bags, each of which was labeled with a sticker thanking those people for their amazing service to the community. On Wednesday, the children shared the Good News of our Lord with children at Akron Children's Hospital by making cards and friendship bracelets. On Thursday, all the classes made tasty treats that were sold at a Bake Sale, which was part of Thursday Evening's Ice Cream Social. The Bake Sale raised \$116.50! Miss Renee's class joined the seniors at Senior Independence on Thursday for a game of Glory, also known as Bible Bingo. A great job was done by all throughout the week!

SERVICE FEET: The children were given "service feet" to sign for all the wonderful service work they did throughout the week both at VBS and home. These feet were hung up on the Sanctuary wall and show us all how willing the kids are to accept God's challenges to GO Lead, GO Risk, GO Tell, GO Obey and GO Serve – a true inspiration to all!



THE FINAL WRAP FOR VBS



HERE'S WHAT EVERYONE GAVE:

The Children's Daily Offering	\$ 442.44
Our Family Night Quilt Raffle	\$ 123.00
The VBS Ice Cream Cart	\$ 49.02
Our Family Night Bake Sale	\$ 116.50
Ice Cream Social Donations	\$ 45.00
Thrivent Financial Matching Funds	\$ 333.52
Total Giving for our VBS Charities	\$1,109.48

THESE ARE THE FOLKS WHO RECEIVED IT:

One-half given to Zion's Food Pantry	\$ 554.74
One-half given to the Humane Society	\$ 554.74

Thank you, again, to everyone for your support of all our projects! STUDIO GO GAME SHOW continued our great tradition of service at Zion's Vacation Bible School. We made great strides in all that we achieved. We accentuated our service with an impressive array of generosity. You could see God's love at work everywhere you turned, and certainly the totals referred to above make it clear that many will benefit from the good we did. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Thank you again to all involved!
Debbie Fox, VBS Chairperson

HERE'S SOME GOOD NEWS ABOUT ZION'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Sunday, September 6th: An *End-of-the-Summer Party* on Sunday Afternoon

Sunday, September 13: *Rally Day* marks the beginning of the Sunday School Year

Sunday, September 20: The start of classes for the *2009-10 Sunday School Year*

CONFIRMATION CLASS

On May 31st, we colored our Sanctuary red in honor of the Festival of Pentecost, celebrating the Rite of Confirmation for Lauren Mathie, who stood alone as she affirmed her Baptism, along with the responsibilities that come with being a member of the Church. It surely was a beautiful day. On Sunday, September 13th, we will present the gift of new Lutheran Study Bibles to a much larger group, perhaps as many as ten new Confirmands! What a day that will be for us, for Renee Schrader, our Confirmation Instructor, and for each of our Confirmands: Allan Fisher, Sam Forsyth, Savannah Heller, Natalie Henderson, Quintin Hilson, Max Jacobs, Lya Milek, Ben Sir Louis, Brandon Stout, and Kevin Walters!

Confirmation classes will start up again on Sunday, September 20th, beginning at 9:15 a.m. in the Resource Center. This class is for all 7th and 8th graders. We look forward to a great year. Confirmation takes two years to cover such basics as the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion, along with the Office of the Keys, otherwise known as the call to turn the grace God gives into the forgiveness we live.

Confirmation is an extraordinary rite of passage in the lives of younger Christians. Our key resource is *The Lutheran Handbook*, which is written as a guide for this journey. It covers the full gamut of issues that can arise as we're trying to grow in grace through the life of the church. Here are just a few of the lessons Confirmands will learn: *How to Stay Alert in Church? How to Respond When Someone Sits in Your Pew? How to Avoid Getting Burned at the Stake?* None will want to miss a single session! Stay safe through the summer, and we'll see you in September.

THE BOOK OF FAITH

The Adult Sunday School Class is beginning a new Bible Study, called *God's Standard or Gold Standard*. It is a study of Proverbs, with the key word being *standard*. There are more than twenty definitions of the word *standard* in the dictionary. Our Sunday morning study will focus on three of them. In the first session, entitled *What is Our Standard of Living?*, the word *standard* is utilized in the context of a unit of measure. Whether it is a measure of our wealth or integrity, the real question is which is our truest treasure?

In the second session, *standard* is to be understood as a familiar song, a song known by heart, and is called *Are We Singing the Standards of Wisdom?* We will hear *Sophia*, Woman Wisdom, calling us out of our foolishness. In the third session, *Are We Raising God's Standard?*, the word *standard* should be thought of as a flag, an emblem, even an attractive quilt that combines and displays God's standards. How do we display the God standard by our lives? Combined, these sessions urge us to be *as good as God*.

However this means much more than abiding by a set of proverbial morals. It means abiding by faith in the God who not only expects wisdom and goodness, but provides it in Christ, our Savior. The book of Proverbs provides some surprisingly sound investment advice as far as *the God standard* is concerned. But God's counsel in Proverbs is more than where or how to invest one's money or time, even though that is very important for our good stewardship of our resources. Proverbs is more about how to best invest one's whole self in ways that make for a blessed future. Plan to join us on Sunday mornings between the services in Luther Hall. We'll be glad you did, and so will you.

CARING AND SHARING

When Gary & Shirley Horton celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in Luther Hall on July 2nd, they asked that their friends, family, and invited guests not bring presents, just their presence, with any gifts they might consider directed as monetary contributions to Zion's Food Pantry. With the help of these friends, Gary & Shirley were able to raise \$550.00 in support for the ministry we offer through our Food Pantry & Clothing Closet. We extend our congratulations to Gary & Shirley for fifty years together, and our thanks for generating some much-needed generosity toward this much-needed ministry.

While we're talking about gifts to the Food Pantry, we offer heartfelt thanks to the kids of Vacation Bible School, their families, our members and friends, along with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for their generosity in accounting for a contribution of \$554.74! We plan to present this gift to the Food Pantry during our *End-of-the-Summer Party* on the afternoon of Sunday, September 6, which is also a fundraiser for the Food Pantry. That's another reason

why you will want to attend this *End-of-the-Summer Party*.

We hope to raise over \$1,000 with the many activities we have planned for this new tradition at Zion. Make it a point to join us. There is no doubt that you will have a great time, and that we will do a lot

of good, too! Take note: there's a fundraiser for the Food Pantry at Zion on September 6.

THE WOMEN OF ZION

The 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 ten beautiful quilts, nine of which will become a part of Blanket Sunday in October, with one given to this year's raffle winner, Jeremy Fox! We would like to thank all of Zion's Quilters for their hard work and faithfulness – Kay Davis, Ruth Elsass, Helen Edwards, Sue Geib, Joyce Gibeaut, Helen Heller, Juanita Meighen, Carol Snyder, Pat Stayer, Betty Tracy, and Linda Wilson. It makes a difference having the whole community involved in Vacation Bible School, and it's clear that our Comfort Givers look forward to the fun this collaborative connection affords. They'll be taking the month of August off, and will return to their regular schedule in September.

The Women of Zion thank you in advance for your support of their drive to provide Lutheran World Relief with more Health Kits and School Kits this year. The drive culminates this fall; but, with back-to-school sales already beginning, we thought that it would be good to remind you of what we need. **HEALTH KITS** include a hand towel, a wash cloth, a comb, a nail file, a bar of soap, a toothbrush, and a package of 3/4 inch band-aids. **SCHOOL KITS** include spiral notebooks, blunt scissors, 12-inch and metric rulers, 2 ½ inch erasers, unsharpened pencils with erasers, pencil sharpeners, crayons (box of 8), colored construction paper, 12 X 14 inch bags with handles. Any assistance will be appreciated by the Women of Zion, Lutheran World Relief, and children around the world.

Come to the *Women's Summer Bible study*, which is scheduled for Tuesday, August 18, at 9:30 a.m., when we'll gather in Luther Hall for lively discussion and good fellowship.

THE MEN OF ZION

A key person in helping to manage the schedule of events for the Men of Zion for the past several years has been Steve Ross. As some may recall from the graduation article written for Steve & Linda's daughter Nicki in June's edition of *The Zion Herald*, the Rosses have pursued work-related moves all over North America, settling into communities surrounding Pittsburgh, Edmonton, Toronto, Philadelphia, here in North Canton, and now, unfortunately for us, it will soon become Poughkeepsie, New York, where Steve has taken a job at a family-run bearings plant. We are, of course, saddened by their need to relocate, but happy that Steve has found another position so quickly.

In addition to this *happy-sad* dynamic, we have also experienced a "*Who didn't call anyone to prepare for our monthly meeting?*" dynamic! So, we're a little unsure of what's going to happen on **Wednesday, August 5**, when the Men of Zion meet for dinner in Luther Hall at 6:00 p.m. We've got a lot to discuss, and a few things to plan. Mark Votaw has put us all on the line with an *End-of-the-Summer Party* that calls on the Men of Zion to take the lead in planning for some great food on the afternoon of Sunday, September 6.

We're thinking that the Men of Zion will provide the charcoal so that anyone who wants to grill can bring their grill to the party. Perhaps we can help transport some grills, too. We'd like to have as many as a dozen among us working hard to win the prize for the best food of the afternoon. People who don't grill can bring salads, desserts, and sides. Church Council is on board; and actually, Steve Ross and his family will be with us on September 6th. So, stay tuned as our plan develops; and, please, Men of Zion, come to our meeting on August 5th!

MORE ODDS 'N ENDS

A New Telephone Directory is Coming? It might come as good news to know that we are beginning to think about producing an updated telephone directory for distribution to our members and friends on Rally Day at Zion, which is on the schedule for Sunday, September 13th. Please let the Church Office know of changes that should be recorded.

THANK YOU'S AND MORE

To our newest life-long member,

Recently, Zion's Chancel Guild made one of our long-time members an honorary life member. Anna Mae LeBeau has been serving the Lord by being on the Altar Guild (now Chancel Guild) for many years. We would like to thank her for her service and let her know that the members are thinking of her and praying for her.

*God bless,
Chancel Guild*

Pastor, Council, Congregational Members,
Thank you for your gifts to *Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio (LOMO)*. We appreciate your financial and prayerful support for our ministries. The support that comes from congregations like yours helps to provide quality Christ-centered programs through Camp Mowana, Lutheran Memorial Camp, Camp Luther, and LOMO Outreach. Our mission for the church is to *create places apart where lives are changed through spiritual growth as people experience the love and joy of Jesus Christ*. Please accept our gratitude for your generosity.

*Sincerely in Christ,
Penny Christensen,
Executive Director*

OUR THANKS TO GOD!

A Rick Riffle Update: We have been keeping our congregational family in the know about Rick since that weekend in January, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend, when an industrial accident at the Timken Company landed Rick on a life-flight helicopter to Akron General Hospital, and a six-month-long journey through survival to recovery. During that time, Rick split his time between Cleveland Metro Health Systems, Select Specialty Hospital, Akron City Hospital, and the Edwin Shaw Rehabilitation Hospital. On Wednesday, July 15, almost six months to the day from January 18, Rick was discharged from Edwin Shaw, and returned home. The journal entry from www.CaringBridge.com makes it clear that the Riffles were ecstatic with joy and thanksgiving for this answer to their prayers! It is interesting to remember that Rick's recovery was moving along quite slowly until the arrival of Easter, when it appeared that Rick was raised from the land of the living dead to begin a recovery in earnest, which has been nothing short of miraculous. Rick has a long way to go, but that cannot minimize the amazing progress he has made thus far. Let's not forget to keep Rick and Connie and their family in our prayers as we look for Rick to celebrate life to its fullest. May God be praised! Amen

A Call to Prayer: While we're thinking about prayer, let's remember Bishop Mark Hanson's challenge to keep the ELCA in prayer as we prepare for the Churchwide Assembly, which will convene in the Minneapolis Convention Center, beginning on Monday, August 17.