

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR:

Over the course of the past five years, Zion has been very generous in supporting a series of special fundraising projects that have involved spending above and beyond what is covered by our Operating Budget. In 2004, it was replacing the roof on the parsonage. In 2005, it was renovating the restrooms. In 2006, it was replacing and upgrading our sound system. In 2007, it was renovating and improving our Sanctuary. In 2008 and 2009, it has been replacing the old boiler with our new heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning system. These projects have involved significant fundraising: \$12,000 for the parsonage; \$13,000 for the restrooms, \$20,000 for the sound system; \$30,000 for the Sanctuary; and \$60,000 for the new HV/AC system. That is a total of \$135,000 in *above-and-beyond the Operating Budget* fundraising for special projects involving property improvements over the past five years!

In addition to these projects, we have also pursued special fundraisers for various benevolence concerns, from assisting Melanie Slease with the mission work she did in Mecklenburg, Germany, to responding to members with catastrophic needs, along with *Helping New Orleans Heal*, and funding our ministry to families in our community through the Food Pantry & Clothing Closet. These various projects have raised in excess of \$40,000 over the course of these past five years! So, in addition to supporting our Operating Budget, with small surpluses during each of these years, we also raised an additional \$175,000 in special fundraising efforts in response to special needs and pressing challenges. There is no exaggeration here. Your generosity has been nothing short of unbelievable – well, actually, very believable, but certainly nothing short of phenomenal.

All of us can be proud of the excellent leadership we have received from our Church Council during this period. When it comes to living up to our means, they have acted responsibly, in some cases frugally, in many ways volunteering unselfishly in minimizing costs and completing many projects under cost in order to keep our budget in the black. Our cumulative Operating Budget surplus as we headed into 2009 was \$7,610. That doesn't look like much, but now you can see that with annual Operating Budgets in the \$235,000 range, and special fundraising adding about \$35,000 to that figure every year, maintaining small but steady surpluses shows great discipline in leadership to go along with exceptional generosity from the congregation. Pleased, proud, grateful, gratified, honored and humbled: these are words that come to mind in describing my feelings for your support of the work that God is doing through us.

We are now at a point where we can take a rest from these special property and benevolence fundraisers. As we head into 2010, our focus will be to restore some of the support staff we have been operating without for a year-and-a-half. There is no doubt that Zion can easily manage this return to previous staffing levels if we are able to transfer some of the generosity we've extended through these special property projects to support for the Operating Budget. In truth, we can do more than just wait-and-see if 2010 turns out as we would like. It is very possible to finish 2009 so strongly that we add substantially to our cumulative surplus. With some intentional generosity, we could double our surplus from \$7,610 to \$15,200 – virtually assuring all we need to see a Church Secretary sitting behind the desk in the Office. Let's see if we can turn November and December into this kind of down-payment on our goals for 2010.

OUTSTANDING NEWS FROM OUR 2009 YOUTH MISSIONS CRAFT SHOW

Thank you, Connie Frank! Connie assumed leadership for this year's Youth Missions Craft Show, and, as promised, the sixth annual edition of our Oktoberfest extravaganza was the biggest and best ever! Connie began recruiting crafters in May, rather than waiting until mid-August as in previous years. She knew that the economy was not as strong as crafters might like, and that we would not have the support of the larger Northwood Elementary Craft Show attracting craft show shoppers into town for the day. We were the big show in town for the day, and October 17th did not disappoint. All the work and worry that went into preparing for 75 craft tables, spread across Luther Hall, Memorial Hall, Senior Independence, five classrooms and two entrances offered our 55 crafters a friendly environment, ample foot traffic, and a very profitable afternoon. Connie deserves all the credit for making our Craft Show a great success.

Next on the list, *thank you, Dale Jacobs!* The generosity he offers with his time and talent in preparing our take-out German dinners cannot be measured. Every year he makes good on the confidence we display in offering the very best German food at rock-bottom prices, insuring that our Oktoberfest and Craft Show will deliver on the fundraising results we celebrate. As it turned out, we raised \$3,213 through the Craft Show proper, and \$3,412 through our German dinners and Concession stand, with an added bonus of \$686 in Matching Funds through Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. That comes to a total of \$7,311.00 raised through this year's Youth Missions Craft Show! After expenses, that still left us with \$5,779.00 in funds raised through this year's Craft Show. We were able to buy fourteen tables to help with hosting 55 crafters. We were able to cover some expenses preparing the parking lot for our big day. And we were able to add more than \$3,000 to our Youth Fund for all the effort expended.

Jeff Frank, Janet Slease, Mark Votaw, Debbie Fox, Dave Palumbo, Connie and Melissa Riffle, Matt Leasure, Darlene Milavickas, John Brokloff, Mary Humbert, Chris Thomas, Tina Beaver, John Rhodes, Kelly and Kevin Walters, Linda and Bob Lancashire, Betty Tracy, Brian Walters, Gary Horton, Sharon Stout, Carl Geib, Juanita and Earl Bathol, Cherie Henson, Helen Heller, Natalie Henderson, Ronda Keating, Christian Heller, Laura Kay, Ethan Frock, Charlie Danner, Kay Davis, Verle and Ruth Elsass, Garry Leed, Carley and Cassie Frank, Nathan and Jeremy Fox, Jaret Beaver, Mabel Kolarik, Carol Rossbach, Vicki Givler, for the many unnamed supporters who donated baked goods, for all the folks who bought and donated German dinners, for everyone who supported our Craft Show with their presence, and for our partners in hospitality from Senior Independence, Alex and Tammy, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all. The growth and success of this Craft Show tradition is truly a community affair.

During the course of our busy day, sales were brisk, the mood was festive, the weather was perfect, and all went well. Our Bake Sale Table made \$255.00. The Raffle Baskets made \$663.00. The Craft Show made \$1,900.00 in profits. German dinners and onsite Concessions made \$2,275.00 in profits, and Matching Funds added \$686.00. Raffle Basket winners were drawn on the evening of our Congregational Meeting: Brooke Stout won the *Family Movie Night Basket*; Cherie Henson won the *Arts & Crafts Basket*; Jen Weil won the *Holiday Basket*; Lisa Vitele won the *Everything Chocolate Basket*; and Jim Fidler capped off an exciting evening by drawing Elaine Fidler, his better half, as winner of *The Ohio State Fan Basket!*

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

Jim Fidler called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members in attendance: Susan Heyard (Vice President), Jayne Schrader (Council Secretary), Dave Palumbo (Treasurer), Cathy Harvey (Social Outreach), Chris Thomas (Property), Tina Beaber (Learning), Mark Votaw (Resource), Linda Lancashire (Parish Life) and Pastor Sherwindt. Dale Jacobs (Worship) and Steve Ross (Witness) were absent. Mary Humbert (Caring Ministry) shared her need to resign (with regrets), and Council accepted it (with regrets).

The September's Treasurer's Report showed continued progress in whittling away at our Operating Budget deficit for 2009. Income exceeded expenses by \$537, which leaves us with a year-to-date Operating Budget deficit of just over \$3,000. We are confident that Zion's generosity will allow us to get out of the red and into the black by year's end. The main item on our agenda was approving the Proposed Budget for 2010. The Proposed Budget anticipates that we will pull back on property fundraisers so that we can hire a Church Office Secretary. Zion's *Fall Congregational Meeting*, which is when we discuss and vote on the Proposed Budget, was scheduled for Wednesday, October 28.

FINANCIAL FACTS FOR SEPTEMBER

September Income	18,628.01
September Expenses	<u>18,090.95</u>
September Surplus	537.06
Income thru September	169,520.12
Expenses " September	<u>172,730.27</u>
Deficit thru September	(3,210.15)
2009 YTD (Deficit)	(3,210.15)
2008 YTD (Deficit)	(4,998.41)

We thank you for your generous support!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

We began with a truly exceptional dinner, prepared by Dale Jacobs, with help from Dave Palumbo. We thank the Youth of Zion for providing the delicious pork, which became roast pork, with mixed vegetables and Dale's special *loaded* mashed potatoes filling out the menu. Council members were present in force, to help with set-up and clean-up, as well as to contribute to the full array of desserts that graced our buffet. The food was great, and so was the turnout.

We easily met our quorum, and the business part of our congregational gathering was called to order by Jim Fidler just after 7 p.m. Pastor Sherwindt offered our prayer. The 2010 Proposed Budget was introduced by Mark Votaw, and after a few explanatory remarks about the details of our Proposed Budget, along with some help from Laura Thompson, and a line-by-line review by Dave Palumbo, the congregation's overwhelming approval followed. We were happy to keep our discussion of the budget focused on the budget, and that all was well-received.

The 2010 Budget calls for a decrease from our 2009 Proposed Budget, but an increase over actual giving this year. The increase is related to our desire to finally fill the position of Church Secretary. In terms of specifics, the efficiencies of our new HV/AC system have given us substantial savings. We have shaved costs elsewhere as well. Mostly, however, we recognized that over the past four years, we have raised over \$135,000 to pay for property renovation projects – a parsonage roof, the restrooms, a sound system, the Sanctuary, and our HV/AC system. All of this extra giving was in addition to support for the Operating Budget. We plan to pull back from these special fundraisers so that we can focus more on the Operating Budget.

THANKSGIVING MEANS TURKEYS AND A COMMUNITY SERVICE

We're looking for a few good turkeys - not the human kind, but the poultry kind!



Please help us achieve our goal of providing 92 turkeys so that we can offer a full Thanksgiving dinner for all of our food pantry families. You are welcome to donate turkeys, or, if you prefer, cash so that we can purchase the turkeys. We need the turkeys and the cash donations to be in place by November 15. That will give us the time we need to make sure that our pantry clients receive the gifts we have for them. We also are lacking in the stuffing department. If each family could bring in just one box of turkey stuffing, that would be grand. Remember, money and stuffing are due by November 15.

We are now accepting Cash Donations or the Actual Frozen Bird!

When it comes to Thanksgiving, we not only serve our pantry clients, but also all the Siffrin homes in Stark County! Siffrin homes are group homes for individuals with mental or physical limitations. Our goal for Thanksgiving is **ninety-two 12-pound turkeys**. The turkeys are just a part of what we supply through the ministry of our Food Pantry. Every family is handed bags filled with stuffing, potatoes, vegetables, cranberries, applesauce, noodles, muffins, pies, and something to drink. We know that with your help, and God's, we will achieve our goal.

The North Canton Ministerial Association presents our –

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, at 7:00 P.M.

HOSTED BY FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

300 9th Street NW (just several blocks from Zion) Come and enjoy:
Great music, excellent preaching, and clergy from all of our churches,
As we celebrate our sense of community and camaraderie in service,
With the offering designated to support the Stark County Hunger Task Force

GREAT NEWS FROM ZION'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- Sunday, November 1:** Celebration of Certificates with the Completion of Communion Class
Sunday, November 29: The Advent Giving Tree is introduced with our First Advent Dinner
Saturday, December 12: Dress Rehearsal for Children's Christmas Program and a Pizza Party!
Sunday, December 13: Zion's Children's Christmas Program at the 10:30 a.m. service (only)
Sunday, December 20: Youth, Parents, and Leaders host our Sunday Evening Advent Service

PRE-K THROUGH THE SIXTH GRADE

As we look to November and December, we are planning to do things a little differently this year. The kids will continue to have choir practice at 9:10 a.m. and regular Sunday School lessons at 9:30 a.m. We will still have a Christmas Program, but practice and rehearsal will be done outside of Sunday School. There will still be many parts for this year's program, which will center on expanding our service to celebrate the story of Christ's birth through Chrismons. We will involve all of our youth with many different roles. We will be giving the children their parts (and more details) in November. We are looking forward to a great program, along with the great lessons that all will continue to learn during the Sunday School Hour. This is a great time of the year for Zion's Sunday School children. The kids will have a lot of fun, while learning a lot, too. The Christmas Program will be performed at the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, December 13. We will have dress rehearsal, our traditional Christmas Pizza Party, and wrapping of the Giving Tree gifts on Saturday, December 12.



ZION'S COMMUNION CLASS FOR KIDS

This year's Communion Class for children who are not yet confirmed had a great turn out! All of our children were eager to learn about the gifts of God's grace that are shared with our receiving the bread and the wine of Holy Communion. Charlie Danner was our primary instructor, but he received valuable assistance from lots of helpers. We extend our thanks to these helpers, our children, their families, and everyone who made the love of God real through the life of Christ's Body alive among us. Our children will receive *Certificates of Completion* at the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, November 1, which is the Festival of All Saints Sunday.



MORE GREAT NEWS FOR ZION'S YOUTH

LEARNING ABOUT THE MEANS OF GRACE (AS TOLD BY CHARLIE DANNER)

God shows his love to us through the Word and Sacraments. When we ask what is required of us to know we are ready to receive the body and blood, our answer is this – simply a believing heart. This opens the door to discussing a believing heart as a faithful heart, a loving heart, a forgiving heart, all the while remembering that we have Jesus in our hearts to be with us. Our students were receptive, respectful, and responsible. Our Communion Class is just one step in an ongoing journey of learning, loving, and responding to what God is doing for us with his amazing grace. We are very proud as a church family of everyone who participated.



THANKSGIVING YOUTH SERVANT EVENT OPEN TO ALL

We are working on our Thanksgiving service project during Sunday School. The kids will make specially decorated Thanksgiving bags for Zion's Food Pantry, adding a festive look to the delivery of our holiday meals. We will start with brown bags for all of our Sunday School classes, and these will be decorated by our kids on November 8th during Sunday School. We are also hoping to have a Scavenger Hunt this year to help collect needed food items for Zion's Food Pantry. We did this last year, and the kids had a lot of fun as they collected a lot of food, while also bringing awareness to the neighborhood around Zion about the families we serve right in our own community. Look for more details in weekly bulletins and emails online.

OUR CHILDREN'S CHOIR PREPARES FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS



Kelly Walters has just begun in her role as our Children's Choir Director, but she is doing a great job. Our Sunday Schoolers offered their first anthem of the season on Reformation Sunday, *The Lord Is My Shepherd*, adding a youthful sound to our worship and great joy to the praise God deserves.

NEWS FROM THIS YEAR'S YOUTH HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY

The Halloween Party we scheduled on the evening of the Congregational Meeting was great fun again this year. We had twenty children dressed in great costumes and just raring to go! We extend a great big *thank you* to everyone who helped make the party such a great success – especially Janet Slease, Connie and Jeff Frank, Darla Dague, Cheryl Roman, and our youth helpers – Brooke Roman, Kelly Walters, Kevin Walters, Savannah Heller, Natalie Henderson, Quintin Hilson, Ashley Sir Louis, Brandon Stout, and Max Jacobs! There was great food. We had great crafts. We enjoyed creative pumpkin decorating and some fun games. Everyone had a terrific time! We would also like to thank everyone who donated items for the party and helped us *Trick or Treat* at the end! We truly appreciate everyone's time and donations.



GREAT ZION TRADITIONS

What has happened to America? Lay-offs and pay-cuts are devouring life as we know it in Ohio. Job security is no longer a given as it was in our past. The demand for state-funded programs is at an all time high. The demand for food assistance is staggering. Every week Zion's Food Panty and Clothing Closet Crew strive to provide quality food and goods for our clients. It is our wish that our clients' holiday be filled with giving thanks. For that reason alone, all of us who are able need to supply families less fortunate than ourselves with a Happy Thanksgiving meal.

Will we be able to enjoy our turkey dinner if our pantry families had to have chicken instead of turkey because our help fell short? Please help us provide turkeys, stuffing, cranberries, rolls, applesauce and pies to all our clients, as well as to the individuals who reside in the group homes of Siffrin. If you can help, thank you. All purchased food needs to be in place by Sunday, November 15, as do your monetary donations.

Have a wonderful holiday of giving thanks and counting ones blessings knowing that others are thankful for your generosity to be able to enjoy the holiday as well. Remember, hunger does not discriminate, and it is not seasonal. It happens all year and to anyone.

God Bless,
Shirley Cavender

And how about the many bushels of tomatoes and peppers that were grown, picked, and given to Zion's members, Pantry families, Senior Independence, and St. Luke Lutheran Community? The only cost to us is the hard work put in by Verle & Ruth Elsass, Gail Vogt, Faye & Dale Shankle. On behalf of all who benefit, we raise our heartfelt thanks.

MEN OF ZION & MORE

The inevitable was bound to happen. Steve Ross, who now works in Poughkeepsie, New York, was going to pass "the book" along to others in overseeing the work of the Men of Zion. John Davis got things going a number of years ago, talked friends into the need to meet, and organized our monthly meetings, which always began with a common meal.

The tradition continues, in large part because Steve Ross made the reminder phone calls, worried about what we would eat, and helped to plan our meetings and our projects. Now it is up to others to take the lead in shaping the next chapter in the life and mission of the Men of Zion. We will meet on the first Wednesday of *November, the 4th, at 6:00 p.m.* in Luther Hall. We're hoping that Dale might work more magic with the pork left over from the Craft Show. We have not been disappointed yet. All of Zion's men are invited to join us

November 29 will be a wonderful evening at Zion, the first in our series of Sunday Evening Advent Dinners & Dramas. The Men of Zion will host our dinner on *November 29*, with Jim Fidler offering the first in a series of dramatic presentations that introduce us to the historical Jesus that comes with the birth of Christ. We will have more to say about our series of Advent dinners and dramas in next month's edition of *The Zion Herald*. Suffice it to say that you will enjoy some of the changes we've envisioned for this year's celebration of the Advent season. Stay tuned, and plan to attend.

The much-touted, updated version of Zion's new *Telephone Directory* comes to you with this month's newsletter. Please take a moment to make sure that the information contained in it is correct; and if you notice the need for any changes or corrections, please let the Church Office know (330-499-3909). Thank you.

THE WOMEN OF ZION

BLANKET SUNDAY was a great success, at least when measure by how beautiful the Sanctuary looked with the many colored quilts draping the pews and filling the Chancel on **October 4**. Then, with the help of Verle Elsass and Garry Leed, the Women of Zion were able to fill 33 boxes with 64 quilts, 22 blankets, 48 school kits and 67 health kits, and get them delivered to Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Seville on Saturday, October 17, where they became part of a larger shipment headed to such places as Armenia, Cambodia, Chad, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Nicaragua, Peru, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Syria, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Zimbabwe. (FYI: This year's shipment an additional 43 health kits donated by the Canton-Massillon Cluster.)

The Women of Zion will celebrate their annual *THANKOFFERING SERVICE* on the Sunday of **November 8**. This is an opportunity to lift up the ministry of women in the ELCA, and to honor the work done by women's organizations in congregations all over the country, including our own. *Love Offering* envelopes will be made available in the bulletin on Thankoffering Sunday. Women *and men* are invited to show their thanks with an offering of support for the work of the Women of Zion and the Women of the ELCA. That's Sunday, November 8!

The monthly *Women's Bible Study* meets on Tuesday, **November 17**, with our focus on Paul's letter to the Romans, chapters 5 and 6: *Hope Does Not Disappoint*. Dealing with suffering is a big part of November's study. Paul tells us that suffering can draw us closer to God, not because God likes suffering, or uses suffering as a test. The Good News reminds us that we can have confidence that even in suffering, God is with us, and that presence brings comfort and strength.

THANK YOU'S AND MORE

Dear Pastor Mark and members of Zion,

Dean and I want to give another big "thanks" for all you have done for the Le Beau family. The many, many prayers, the countless visits to the home, at Mercy Hospital, and even in Pittsburgh, and, of course, the special support for Darlene, Gordon, David, and Ellis. I know Anna Mae appreciated these visits and prayers, and was especially thankful for home communion. May God continue to bless you in your work, your whole family, and our family at Zion.

*Sincerely,
Joan & Dean Le Beau*

*Encourager and Counselor
Teacher and Preacher
Leader and Comforter*

*Thank you for being all God called you to be –
you are appreciated more than you'll ever know.*

IN LOVING MEMORY OF ANNA MAE LE BEAU

April 7, 1925 – October 3, 2009

This has been a year filled with lots of high profile funerals: newscaster Walter Cronkite and commentator Paul Harvey, politicians Ted Kennedy from the left and Jack Kemp on the right, columnist William Safire, and Hollywood types like Karl Malden and Michael Jackson. All forms of media from every corner of the globe covered these events with non-stop, wall-to-wall, twenty-four hour programming. You'd have thought these media stars and pop icons were saints, when, in fact, here on this day, in our corner of Northeast Ohio, with nothing more than friends and family, telephone calls and word-of-mouth to spread the news, we are celebrating the life of a woman who really is a saint, both in Luther's terms of being saved by grace through faith, and in terms of the life she lived, the love she shared, the difference she made on all who knew her, who learned from her, who admired her from near and far because of the size of her heart, the strength of her will, the virtues she embodied, and the grace that was her way through life, even to her very last breath.

Words cannot do justice to the tribute we must pay to a woman for whom being a "child of God" was all she needed to know in order to know that her life was full, because it was blessed by God, as one who was called, chosen, and empowered for service. Zion was the glad recipient of Anna Mae's dedication to our Lord, as were all of you, especially those named Le Beau and Milavickas, Dennis or Peterson, but also Zion's many pastors named Sherwindt, Meuschke, Lutz, Ruth, Findlay, Hasselbach, Ferris, Mollick, Dunbar, LaFontaine, and, of course Daneker, who received Anna Mae into membership shortly after her marriage to Ellis almost sixty-five years ago.... It is so telling that when Anna Mae turned to Paul's great hymn to love in the 13th chapter of 1st Corinthians, she naturally focused on those very practical aspects of love that show us how to harness our passions with discipline. "*Love is patient, kind, not envious or boastful. Love does not insist on its own way. It is not irritable or resentful. Love does not rejoice in wrong doing, but rejoices in the truth.*" These are not romantic abstractions but practical disciplines. Anna Mae lived them, practiced them, and never stopped trying to perfect them to her very last breath. She excelled in the practical, down-to-earth applications of this love that defines who God is, what God does, and how that relates to us....

Anna Mae Le Beau was an extraordinary woman, whether we are talking about home and family and her roles as wife, mother, sister, and friend, or her life-long profession of nursing and her roles as teacher, mentor, model and guide, or her involvement in her community as a good neighbor, an active, engaged and involved citizen, a leader among women, with a sense of responsibility to care for the peoples of the world, or her dedication to the life of the church, serving with the Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, the Women of Zion, and Chancel Guild, on committees, in the kitchen, reaching out to the old and young, to strengthen our fellowship and lift up God's love. In all these roles, Anna Mae was the same extraordinary woman, filled with surprises, to be sure, but surprises that never failed to open our eyes and our hearts to new ways of being faithful servants of our loving Lord, grateful sons and daughters of our heavenly Father, one in that great crowd of witnesses, one among the countless points of light brightening our day and leading the way to the world God intended and desires, to the world that becomes possible when simple believers simply believe in the wonders of God's love, and live it with lives of faithful service. This, my friends, was Anna Mae Le Beau, whose life we celebrate, whose love we will always treasure, whose light will always shine brightly in the heavens with the difference she made living among us here on earth, never missing an opportunity to live the love and share the grace God gives in Jesus' name. Amen