

SOME WORDS ABOUT HEROES FROM THE PASTOR:

When I was growing up, we found a lot of our heroes on television, like *Hogan's Heroes*, a show about a group of guys who weren't really heroes on TV or in real life. Then, there were ballplayers, like Mickey Mantle and Willie Mays. Back then, ballplayers didn't mind being heroes, although we didn't know a whole lot about them. Now we know more, and we're not sure we should think of them as heroes. In fact, we're pretty sure we shouldn't, because of what we know, and what we don't know ... yet. We're pretty sure that although people on television and in the movies are enjoying their fifteen minutes of fame, they're certainly not heroes. Heroes are the ordinary men and women who are putting their lives on the line protecting our freedom at home and defending the lives of others overseas. They're the men and women going above and beyond the call of duty working with emergency services, and with the fire and police departments. They're our friends and neighbors working hard in our schools, at our parks, building buildings, repairing our roads, keeping us safe, and making us well.

Twenty-five years ago, when the World Almanac conducted its annual poll surveying the *Top Ten* list of American heroes, Eddie Murphy headed the list, followed by Ronald Reagan, Mary Lou Retton, and Bill Cosby. The NBA's Michael Jordan, the aging rocker Bruce Springsteen, and Hollywood's Rocky, Rambo, and Indiana Jones, otherwise known as Sylvester Stallone and Harrison Ford, rounded out the top ten. Today's list includes neighborhood organizers, ordinary people purchasing wheelchairs for children wounded in Iraq, people offering music lessons for kids in New Orleans, neighbors helping to assist refugee families from Central America to the Middle East who have found themselves in America. The only way you'd find Hollywood types and star athletes on these lists of heroes today is if they, too, were busy helping real people find solutions to real problems in life. It's not about image anymore. It's about caring and helping.

That's what we were celebrating at *Hero Headquarters*. You will discover more about the heroes we met and studied in the pages that follow. But I've got to admit that the one name that stands out as an everyday, ordinary hero we know and love is Debbie Fox. It really is amazing what she can accomplish with the resources that are provided, with the children who sign up to come, with volunteers who offer their time and their talents to see the difference we can make with our summer excursion into faith active in love, and love alive through service. I don't know how many times I stood back during the week of Vacation Bible School just to marvel at how everything came together so beautifully, at how many of our kids love to work with Debbie, at how many of our parents love what Debbie is able to make of the week, with special speakers, special service projects, along with the usual fare of great crafts, great food, fabulous music, crazy offerings, and lots of fun.

Our week at *Hero Headquarters* was fun for everyone, with great volunteers, great kids, and great families. We learned a lot about how God uses ordinary people to do everyday things that make a difference for the people we love. This lesson about God's heroes became something we saw by looking at our VBS Director, Debbie Fox. She's not a sports star, and doesn't play one on TV, but she is a real life hero, who has shown us how it's done, by opening her ears to God's call, her heart to God's love, and her life to God's service. What a blessing: thanks be to God!

GREAT NEWS ABOUT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Once again, an awesome group of kids joined us at Vacation Bible School for a week of fun, learning and service at *Hero Headquarters*, June 21 – 25. We had forty-three children registered this year. 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 Hero Celebration.



In this year's lessons the kids got to meet everyday, ordinary characters in the Bible whom God chose to use as heroes – a servant girl, some smelly shepherds, a Roman centurion, a young boy and St. Paul's nephew. These lessons taught the children that God uses people like us to do great things for Him, and that no matter how young or how old someone is, and no matter how big or small the deed, God uses all of us as His heroes to do His work. Pastor Sherwindt introduced each day's lesson during the opening to get us started, and then three special characters – Maintenance Mac, Pizza Man, and Water Woman (portrayed by Christian Heller, Kevin Walters, and Kelly Walters) – performed great skits to get our kids focusing on our daily missions as God's Heroes: *Do the Unexpected, Take Action, Step Out on Faith, Save the Day, and Stand for Truth.*

Monday's lesson was about a servant girl who was captured from her home, taken to a foreign country, and forced to serve Naaman's wife. Instead of having hard feelings toward her captors, the servant girl *did the unexpected* and told Naaman's wife how to have Naaman's leprosy cured. The young girl trusted in God's power to heal and spoke up because she wanted Naaman to be healed. On Tuesday, the children got to experience Christmas in June! They learned about the shepherds who *took action* and went to see the baby Jesus after the angels told them of his birth. When the shepherds saw baby Jesus, they were so excited they went to tell everyone about the birth of our Savior, praising God as they shared the Good News. Wednesday's lesson was about a Roman centurion who went to Jesus to ask him to heal a servant who was very ill. The centurion *stepped out on faith* and told Jesus that because he was a leader in God's kingdom, Jesus could just give the order, and those under his command would get the job done. Jesus praised the centurion's faith. Then he said the word, and the centurion's servant was healed.

On Thursday, we learned about a young boy who was willing to share his meager lunch of five loaves and two fish. Jesus used this boy's lunch to feed five thousand people. Everyone had as much as they wanted to eat, with leftovers that filled twelve baskets. Whether it was a miracle of sharing or divine multiplication, the young boy *saved the day* with his willingness to let Jesus use him – and his lunch – for the good of his neighbors and the glory of God. On Friday, we learned about Paul's nephew, a young boy who *stood for truth*. St. Paul's nephew overheard a group of Jewish men who were plotting to kill Paul while he was in the Romans' protective custody. His nephew quickly went to Paul and told him of the conspiracy. Paul sent him to tell the Roman commander what he heard. Because of his nephew's willingness to stand before the Roman commander and tell the truth, Paul was moved and saved. The Biblical characters in our five lessons were true heroes of God for their actions. All of us learned that no matter how big or how small the action, God used these people for great and important things.

MORE GOOD NEWS ABOUT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We were very blessed this year to have two special heroes as speakers. On Tuesday, George DeStefano, a medic for Akron Children's Hospital, came to talk to the kids. George is one of the medics that rides *Air Bear*, Akron Children's helicopter, and he also drives their transport ambulance. He told the children all about his job, brought some fun treats, and answered a lot of great questions from the children. We really appreciated George taking the time to share such important information with the kids. Then on Wednesday, Staff Sergeant Jason Myers from the U.S. Army came to talk to the kids. Sgt. Myers had a lot of interesting stories to share, as well as some valuable information about his job and his family. Sgt. Myers told us about the eighteen months he spent in Iraq. Best of all, he brought a cool vehicle and some of his equipment for the kids to check out! The kids were very excited to listen and they had a lot of questions. It was a great session for the kids, and again, we really appreciated Sgt. Myers taking the time to spend with the kids. The kids had an amazing time with both of our "Heroes" and learned so much! It was great for them to meet ordinary, everyday people from our community who truly are heroes.

Our special guests were great; but we also had an awesome group of teachers and assistants at **HERO HEADQUARTERS** 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! As always, music was one of the highlights of Vacation Bible School. Special thanks to Kelly Walters for leading the music this year. She did an amazing job teaching the kids the songs, motions and dances. She put together a wonderful program for the Ice Cream Social that parents, family and friends truly enjoyed. The children really enjoyed this year's music, both because it was fun and because the songs had such great meaning. I am sure they will be singing and dancing to these songs for a long time! Thanks, Kelly, for taking on and accomplishing your mission at **HERO HEADQUARTERS**!

Our crafts were also outstanding thanks to the creativity, patience, organization, and flexibility of Connie Frank, and her helpers, Cheryl Roman and Kaylee Hilson. The kids really enjoyed this year's crafts and the finished products were great! Our service project room was very busy all week long! Thank you to Savannah Heller and her crew 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 by letting God use them as his everyday heroes. Thank you to Christian Heller who led our Outdoor Games rotation all week. The kids loved going outside to play a variety of games that included relay races and different versions of tag. These games encouraged teamwork and incorporated the daily themes in the decisions the children needed to make while playing the games. Our kitchen crew was amazing! They offered a great menu that all of us, children and adults, loved. Hotdogs from the grill, chicken nuggets that were to-die-for, pasta, sandwiches, and pizza: our kitchen crew worked hard to keep everyone fed and happy! 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 charity, Zion's Food Pantry.



STILL MORE GOOD NEWS ABOUT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The week finished with the Parents' Program and Ice Cream Social on Thursday night and our big Hero Celebration on Friday. The kids did a great job singing and the ice cream was great! Thanks to Janet Slease for taking care of the kitchen for the Ice Cream Social. Friday's big Hero Celebration included carnival games, the big water slide, the slip & slide, water balloons, sponge tag, squirt tag, cup relays, other water activities, and a pizza party. It was a perfect ending to celebrate a great week of learning and service and all the kids' hard work!

Zion's Vacation Bible School is such a great success because of the commitment of all involved: staff, children, their families and the congregation. Thank you to everyone who donated supplies, food, money, and their time! It is always with a sense of pride, deep gratitude, and a spirit of thanksgiving that I pull together the list of staff and volunteers who were so invaluable to me and Zion. That list is what follows. Read it carefully. You will notice that many of our volunteers did double and triple duty, contributing to more than one category of involvement. Everyone was willing to help out wherever they were needed!

I also want to thank Zion's youth who put in a lot of additional time during the two weeks leading up to VBS, helping the leaders clean up, prep the crafts, decorate, and much more: Taylor Roman, Laura Kay, Kelly Walters, Kevin Walters, Christian Heller, Savannah Heller, Summer Heller, Cassie Frank, Carley Frank, Jeremy Fox, Nathan Fox, Jaret Beaber, and even Grant Beaber. Thank You! Thank You! Thank You to everyone!

HERO HEADQUARTERS PRODUCTIONS
Our Director and Producer, Debbie Fox



Staff, Helpers, and Volunteers

CREW LEADERS:	Taylor Roman & Laura Kay (Assistant, Dana Roman) Connie Riffle (Assistant, Ashley Sir Louis) Tina Beaber (Assistant, Jenna Blogna) Renee Schrader (Assistant, Adam Todich)
MUSIC LEADER:	Kelly Walters
INTRODUCING LESSONS:	Pastor Sherwindt
DAILY SKIT CHARACTERS:	Christian Heller as <i>Maintenance Mac</i> Kelly Walters as <i>Water Woman</i> Kevin Walters as <i>Pizza Man</i>

MORE ABOUT THE CREWS AT "HERO HEADQUARTERS"

ZION'S KITCHEN CREW: Gary Horton, Dave Palumbo, Chris & Peg Thomas, Stacey Lessick, Laura Thompson, Sharon Stout, Cherie Henson, Barbara Achauer, Darlene Dague, and Bob Lancashire

VBS CRAFTS: Connie Frank, Cheryl Roman, Kaylee Hilson

OUTDOOR GAMES: Christian Heller, Quintin Hilson, Ben Sir Louis

ZION'S QUILTERS: Kay Davis, Ruth Elsass, Sue Geib, Joyce Gibeaut, Helen Heller, Betty Lenz, Carol Rossbach, Edna Smith, Carol Snyder, Pat Stayer, and Betty Tracy

YOUTH HELPERS: Jenna Blogna, Sam Deremer, Allan Fisher, Christian Heller, Savannah Heller, Alex Henson, Kaylee Hilson, Quintin Hilson, Lauren Mathie, Josh Mingo, Maria Reynolds, Dana Roman, Ben Sir Louis, Brandon Stout, Adam Todich, Kevin Walters

SET-UP AND TEAR-DOWN: Jeff Frank, Gary Horton, Chris Thomas, and Dean Fox

REGISTRATION: Vicki Givler & Cheryl Roman

PHOTO DVD: Kelly Walters & Brian Walters

DAILY NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Lisa Roman

OUR DAILY VIDEOGRAPHER: Chuck Danner

SET DESIGN & DECORATIONS: Carol Rossbach

ICE CREAM SOCIAL: Janet Slease, Jayne Schrader, Connie Riffle

SERVICE PROJECT: Savannah Heller, Amy & Lauren Mathie, Marie Reynolds, Sam Deremer



This year was truly amazing! Because of all the people listed above, our program was a great success. Zion is very blessed with 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! Simply put, I could not do it 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

P.S. The week continued our great tradition of service at Zion. You could see God's love at work everywhere you turned! Read more about our many service projects on the next page.

DAILY SERVICE PROJECTS AT HERO HEADQUATERS



This year the children were again involved with many service projects during the week because we feel this is such an important part of our VBS. 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 collected \$373.27. The girls collected a total of \$177.34 for the week and the boys \$195.93. This money, along with the money collected from the ice cream cart, will be donated to Zion's Food Pantry. What a great job was done by the kids! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

FOOD PANTRY: The children brought in food to fill *Souper Cooper's Food Cart* with items that will go to Zion's Food Pantry to help out those in need in our community! *Souper Cooper's Food Cart* was filled by week's end! Thanks to everyone for your support!

QUILT SQUARES: Once again, our children designed beautiful quilt squares for comforters. Zion's quilters were able to sew twelve beautiful quilts from the squares the children created. Eleven of these quilts will be sent to Lutheran World Relief to help people in need across the globe. One was raffled off during the Ice Cream Social, when we raised another \$170, which will go to help our Food Pantry. Katie Criswell (a student in Miss Connie's class) and her dad, Steve, were the lucky winners of this year's quilt raffle. Congratulations to the Criswells; and thanks to the children of VBS and Zion's Comfort Givers for all of their hard work!

DAILY PROJECTS: The children also worked on special daily projects throughout the week to inspire them to join forces with God and be His Heroes. One project, which lasted all week, was the HHQ Prayer Chain. The children were asked to write the name of someone they wanted to pray for each day. These names formed a large prayer chain that stretched the length of the Sanctuary stressing the importance of the power of prayer. The children also participated in *Operation Christmas Child*, wrapping and filling over twenty-one shoe boxes with toys and needed items to be sent through *Samaritan's Purse* to children in eighteen countries across Africa, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia. We made cards and trail mix for our U.S. soldiers, which will be distributed by the USO. Miss Renee's class spent some time with Senior Independence painting wood crafts, coloring flower pots and planting flowers. They really enjoyed their time with the seniors learning all about their lives and interesting experiences. Finally, we brought in school supplies to help the families that are served through Zion's Food Pantry. We will continue this collection throughout the summer if anyone is interested in donating items.

CHALLENGE CHEST: Our VBS children were given "homework" and missions each day, which they were to do both at church and at home. When they accomplished a mission, they were given the opportunity to visit the CHALLENGE CHEST – a treasure chest filled with small prizes to reward their good work. The CHALLENGE CHEST was getting empty by week's end because of the hard work and effort put forth by all of the children! We are so proud of them!

THE FINAL WRAP FOR VBS

HERE'S WHAT EVERYONE GAVE:

The Children's Daily Offering	\$ 373.27
Our Family Night Quilt Raffle	\$ 170.00
The VBS Ice Cream Cart	\$ 43.36
Our VBS Donations Cans	\$ 186.37
Ice Cream Social Donations	\$ 27.00
Special Gifts from VBS Friends	\$ 200.00
Total VBS Giving for the Food Pantry	\$ 1,000.00

Wow! One-thousand dollars in donations for Zion's Food Pantry & Clothing Closet! That surpassed all expectations, and is going to help us make a difference in the battle against hunger here in our neighborhood. Thank you to everyone for your support of all our projects! **HERO HEADQUARTERS** 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. Once again, it seems that all we can say is, "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 SCHOOLUPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Saturday, August 21: Zion will host a *Neighborhood Yard Sale* to support our Food Pantry

Sunday, September 5: It's our *End-of-the-Summer Party* with Zach on Labor Day Sunday

Sunday, September 12: *Rally Day* marks the beginning of yet another Sunday School Year

Sunday, September 19: The *2010-11 Sunday School Year* begins with classes for everyone

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR THE SUMMER: PRE-K THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL

We are taking a break this summer from Sunday School. There are no Sunday School classes for Pre-K through High School this summer. We will start up again in September when we kick off the Sunday School year with Rally Day on Sunday, September 12, 2010 and classes will start up again on Sunday, September 19th.

ECOLOGY CORNER: WHY RECYCLE? (A word, or two, from Jayne Schrader)

“I am only one; but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but I still can do something; I will not refuse to do the something I can do.” (Helen Keller)

Several years ago when I was putting out the trash barrel, I realized it was mostly full of the weekly newspapers and junk mail that we received that week. So that is when I decided to recycle paper items. I keep a paper bag in the kitchen and any junk mail, catalogs, and any paper items left from opening the mail goes directly into the bag. I then decided if I really wanted to reduce what went to the landfill, I should also recycle cans, plastic and glass. So, I bought two containers to collect these items also. Since Mike and I are now *empty nesters*, I have found that about every two weeks is how often I need to take the containers and papers to the recycle bins, which are not too far from our home (since we don't have our trash service pick-up recyclable things).

Home recycling requires a trivial amount of time, yet offers substantial benefit to the homeowner as well as to the environment. According to the EPA, the national recycling rate is just 30%. Increasing materials recycling in the United States to 60% could save the equivalent of 315 million barrels of oil per year. Recycling is a great way individuals can make a difference, both locally and globally. (Check out *Recycling Basics for the Home* on EarthEasy.com)

Not long after that I began to hear words like “*reuse, sustainable living, repurpose and go green.*” I realized I really didn't know what any of that meant so I went to my computer and looked it up on the Internet. No more having to go to the library, everything you really need to know (and things you don't need to know) is right there, on the *World Wide Web*. Next month, I'll say more about facts I found on water, appliances, fixtures, and bathrooms; but here are a few facts about the difference between *reuse* and *recycle* that I think you'll find interesting.

Reuse is often confused with recycling, but they are really quite different. *Reuse* in the broadest sense means any activity that lengthens the life of an item. Recycling, on the other hand, is the reprocessing of an item into a new raw material for use in a new product, for example, grinding the tire and incorporating it into a road-surfacing compound. *Reuse* is nothing new. What is new is the need to reuse. *Reuse* is accomplished through many different methods: purchasing durable goods, buying and selling in the used marketplace, borrowing, renting, subscribing to business waste exchanges, and making or receiving charitable transfers. It is also achieved by attending to maintenance and repair, as well as by designing in relation to reuse. This may mean developing products that are reusable, long-lived, capable of being remanufactured, or creatively refashioning used items.

Why is *reuse* so important? It's simple, because at the same time that it confronts the challenges of waste reduction, *reuse* also sustains a comfortable quality of life and supports a productive economy. With few exceptions, *reuse* accomplishes these goals more effectively than recycling, and it does so in any one of the following ways:

TO REUSE OR RECYCLE

ECOLOGY CORNER (CONT'D)

- Reuse keeps goods and materials out of the waste stream
- Reuse advances source reduction
- Reuse preserves the “embodied energy” that was originally used to manufacture an item
- Reuse reduces the strain on valuable resources, such as fuel, forests and water supplies, and helps safeguard wildlife habitats
- Reuse creates less air and water pollution than making a new item or recycling
- Reuse results in less hazardous waste
- Reuse saves money in purchases and disposal costs
- Reuse generates new business and employment opportunities for both small entrepreneurs and large enterprises
- Reuse creates an affordable supply of goods that are often of excellent quality.

So, when we take clothes, shoes, and other household items to Zion’s Clothing Closet, or a resale shop, it will stop them from taking up space in a landfill; and that’s a good thing.

When I think that what I am doing won’t make a big difference, I remember hearing about a little boy who was walking on the beach one day, when he came upon what must have been thousands of starfish that had washed up onto shore. He started to throw them back into the water one at a time when someone came along and said, “There are so many, you will never be able to save them all. So why bother? What difference does it make?” The little boy picked up another one, threw it back into the water, and said, “It will make a difference to that one.”

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

We will continue our *People of Faith Series* with the study of two pretty good leaders, Moses and Joshua. As we look into Moses’ leadership skills, we will compare the story of the manna in the wilderness with Jesus being the bread of life in John 6. Then we’ll move on to the time that Moses received Ten Commandments from God, with a little help from Cecil B. DeMille. Next, it’s on to the time when Joshua took over from Moses in Joshua 1:1-18, followed by the *walls of Jericho* story in Joshua 6. Our last segment studies Joshua 24, when Joshua is an old man, handing down wisdom to future generations.

Laura Thompson will then lead us in a study from *The Lutheran*, focusing on Patriarchy. This is the reality we’ve inherited in the 21st century. For all of human history, men have been the dominant force in the important spheres of influence: families, government, society and religion. As a result, we have unconsciously inherited centuries-old attitudes and assumptions that men are the more capable, authoritative, competent, less emotional, and more rational of the sexes. However, now many are challenging those assumptions to bring an understanding of men and women as equally capable in leadership and intelligence, and equally emotional in family and social relationships.

Following these discussions about leadership and authority, we will view and discuss the movie *Amazing Grace*. Some of us saw this movie in the Sanctuary after enjoying our Prime Rib Dinner fundraiser for the new carpet. It is an historical epic that tells the story of William Wilberforce and the struggle against slavery. It comes with a study guide, which we will be using as we watch portions of the movie during our Sunday School hour between the services in Luther Hall. Join us!

THE MEN OF ZION

Our goal was to raise \$1,000 for the Carpet Fund, which will provide new carpet for the Narthex, Church Office, and Main Hallway. Zion's support was phenomenal, and we raised about \$1,250 for the cause, bringing our total of funds raised for the new carpet to just about \$5,350. We can still use your donation, just in case you were wondering; but we are close to having what we'll need to install the new carpet this summer. In any event, we thank you for your support, and we thank Dale Jacobs for a truly delicious evening, with his herb-crusted prime rib cooked and cut to perfection, great baked potatoes, mixed vegetables, and a cherry crisp for dessert. We also had great wines, red and white, from California, Argentina, France, Germany, and Australia. We sold oodles of tickets, served 68 for dinner, and delivered 5 dinners to friends and family.

The Prime Rib Dinner was a great way to celebrate a beautiful Saturday on Father's Day weekend. The day began at 7:00 a.m., when Verle Elsass and Chris Thomas got to the church in time to spread 10 yards of mulch. Audrey Hartman wasn't far behind, and she was joined by Laura Thompson, Garry Leed, Carol Rossbach, Gary Horton, Darla Dague, and Pastor Sherwindt, too, all lending a hand to our effort to keep Zion looking beautiful. We enjoyed quite a lot of help in our various workdays to spruce up the outside of the church. Our thanks to all!

With the Mother's Day Breakfast in May, and the Prime Rib Dinner in June, the Men of Zion are ready to take the month of July off! We will not meet on the first Wednesday for dinner. But we'll still need your help when it comes to working on the parsonage and getting ready for the new carpet. Stay tuned.

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 12 beautiful quilts, 11 of which will become a part of Blanket Sunday in October, with one given to this year's raffle winner, Katie Criswell! We would like to thank all of Zion's Quilters for their hard work and faithfulness – Kay Davis, Ruth Elsass, Sue Geib, Joyce Gibeaut, Helen Heller, Carol Rossbach, Edna Smith, Carol Snyder, Pat Stayer, and Betty Tracy. 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 July off, and will return to their regular schedule in August.

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. **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.

The Chancel Guild Luncheon was simply perfect. The weather was great, the company better, and the food superb. Chicken salad on a croissant, sliced fresh fruit, a broccoli and bacon salad, with strawberry pie for dessert: what could be better! We enjoyed almost perfect attendance, just about perfect weather, and a perfect meal. Our thanks to all!

ODDS 'N ENDS AT ZION

Women's Bible Study: In the first session of our summer series (June), we explored the importance of being persistent in prayer and were encouraged to model our prayer lives on the wonderful widow who wouldn't wince when confronting the wicked judge. In our July session, *Waiting with Patience and Hope*, we look at waiting from a biblical perspective and try to discern the relationship between patience and prayer.

Galatians 5:22 identifies patience as one of the gifts of the Spirit, but all of us know how hard it is to cultivate this gift in our lives. Psalms 27, 33, 37, 38, 40, 62, and 130 reinforce the biblical message that while we are waiting God is working. Someone once said, "If you pray, why worry, and if you worry, why pray?" It's true that our prayer list and our "to-do" lists often overlap. But it is even more often the case that after taking our burdens to the Lord, we take them right back again at the end of our praying. But when taking our burdens to the Lord, we really need to wait for God to respond and help us deal with them.

While it almost goes without saying, waiting takes time. Whether our form of prayer is quiet devotion and Scripture reading, walking along the beach or through the woods, or gathering with others in meditation and song, it is important that we learn to wait on God. You are welcome to join us in prayer and Bible study. We meet on the third Tuesday in the Resource Center, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Lutheran Men in Mission Present:

**Our Annual Seminary Scholarship
Best Ball Scramble Golf Outing
Rain Tree Country Club
July 17, 2010, 11:00 a.m.**

Golf, Cart, Snacks, Steak Dinner, Prizes: all for \$75 per person

THANK YOU'S AND MORE

An Expression of Thanks:

I would like to give my thanks to you at Zion. I barely had my wrist surgery (after falling at my daughter and son-in-law's house in Massachusetts), when there were cards in the mail, voices on the phone, and prayers given. Thank you for all your love and concern. Consider yourselves duly *Heller-Hugged*.

*Love and blessings,
Helen Heller*

Dear Pastor Sherwindt,

Words cannot convey our thanks and appreciation for your visits to Jerry and for sharing holy communion with him. He called me that evening, and seemed so pleased when he said, "Pastor gave me communion." Your visits meant a lot to him and to our family. Thank you so much, and thank you, too, for a very special Memorial Service for the family at Zion. It meant a lot to each one of us.

*In Christian love,
Larry & Evelyn Moore*

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

Our June meeting enjoyed the pattern of strong attendance, which has become our trademark: Jim Fidler (President), Susan Heyard (Vice President), Jayne Schrader (Secretary), Dale Jacobs (Worship), Cathy Harvey (Caring), Mark Votaw (Resource), Chris Thomas (Property), Linda Lancashire (Parish Life), and Pastor Sherwindt, with Juanita Cignetti and Vicki Givler, both recently elected to Council, also attending.

The Treasurer’s Report for June offered several points of good news: monthly income was strong; expenses were in check; and we enjoyed a surplus of \$1,114.79. We have also received strong support for the HV/AC Fund, which has now exceeded its target and stands at \$60,646.50. We expect to receive gifts from those who are honoring pledges, and we still welcome contributions from those who have not yet had the opportunity to support this fund. But we suggest that you act soon, because we will be retiring it as an active fund. Also, as we head into the summer, we ask that our members keep in mind that we still have bills to pay and a budget to meet. Please remember us with your generosity during the summer months of July and August.

ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS FOR MAY	
May Income	22,644.07
May Expenses	<u>21,529.28</u>
May Surplus	1,114.79
Income through May	99,639.60
Expenses thru May	<u>106,042.21</u>
2010 YTD Deficit	(6,402.61)
2009 YTD Deficit	(1,533.94)
<i>We thank you for your generous support!</i>	

COUNCIL NEWS (CONT'D)

Parish Life Ministry: Team Zion did it! On the Sunday of Father’s Day, with Bob & Linda Lancashire’s twin daughters, Diane and Debbie, in town to honor their Dad, daughters who were also star athletes in high school, college, and beyond, both of whom played with Team Zion on June 20, Team Zion edged St. Paul’s Team #2 by a run for their first win of the season. Through June, Team Zion has won one game and lost five. Our game on June 27 was rained out. We have two games left to play: July 11 against Church of the Lakes at 3:00 p.m., and July 18 against Rivertree, also at 3:00 p.m. We want to extend our thanks to Jon Votaw for taking on Team Zion’s managerial responsibilities when Bob Lancashire was in Iowa on a mission trip with his daughter Debbie. Check out the schedule on the calendar, and check out our team on the field. You’ll be glad you did, and so will Team Zion.

Witness Ministry: Our plans are going forward for a *Neighborhood Yard Sale*, set for Saturday, August 21, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We will mark off spaces on our lawn that will measure 10 feet by 10 feet, at a cost of \$10 per space (3 spaces for \$25). Members, friends, and neighbors are invited to participate. All funds raised through the *Neighborhood Yard Sale* will support our Food Pantry & Clothing Closet. This event will occur the same weekend as the *Main Street Festival*, which we hope will increase the traffic we can send our way. Zion will once again rent a tent for the Main Street Festival, which is Saturday and Sunday, August 21-22. We also look forward to another *End-of-the-Summer Party* on the Sunday of Labor Day Weekend, featuring Zach and our world-famous cook-off.

A WORD TO THE CHURCH FROM ELCA BISHOP MARK HANSON

The oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is both heartbreaking and infuriating. It causes deep sorrow, both for the initial loss of human life and for the deep and lasting damage to an ecology that provides life and livelihoods for so many of God's creatures. At the same time we grieve that the natural beauty of this region, a sign of God's marvelous creativity, has been defiled. Moving to indignation and anger over the neglect and carelessness that led to this disaster, both in private industry and in government regulation, is understandable. However, to do so without recognizing the responsibility we all share – as consumers of petroleum products, as investors in an economy that makes intensive and insistent energy demands, and as citizens responsible for the care of creation – lacks credibility and integrity. An honest accounting of what happened (and what failed to happen) must include our own repentance.

Nonetheless, God remains faithful in restoring creation and the human community. Among the voices that despair and condemn, we have a witness of hope to proclaim. First, God, who made the creation and made it good, has not abandoned it. Day after day God sustains life in this world, and the powerful vitality of God's creation, though defiled, is not destroyed. The life-giving power of God's creative goodness remains at work, even in the Gulf of Mexico. The Spirit will continue to renew the face of the earth. All who care for the earth and work for the restoration of its vitality can be confident that they are not pursuing a lost cause. They serve in concert with God's own creative and renewing power.

Moreover, the human family need not drown in a flood of suspicion and recrimination that is more toxic and more lasting than the oil that floods the Gulf can ever be. The cleansing waters of baptism in Christ – who died not for the righteous, but for the unrighteous – bring forgiveness and reconciliation with God. In this reconciled life with God we have the freedom to move beyond mutual condemnations and hostility to give a powerful witness of a reconciled community that lives in service of the creation and the neighbor. By refusing to surrender to the toxicity of recrimination, we can convince others that they can join us safely in the life and service of this community.

Responding to a challenge of this size and complexity will call upon countless insights and skills, embodied in hundreds of occupations and trades, and upon the collective strength and will of us all. God's Holy Spirit has abundantly blessed the human community with the gifts needed to do this work. We can do it with sober confidence, good will and even joy. There are times for mourning and for repentance, as well as for reconciliation and commitment to the creation's care. They come at different moments for different people. As you serve in your communities, I commend to you resources for *worship*, *study* and *action* that express the hope of Christians who see God's creative goodness, Jesus' forgiving reconciliation and the Spirit's abundant gifts for service. This is a moment when the human community needs to hear a word of true hope, and we have one to speak.

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

AN UPDATE ABOUT AUSTIN'S ADVENTURE IN ARMENIA

Since learning through Pastor Sherwindt's lead article in the May newsletter about Austin's joining the Peace Corps with his assignment to serve in Armenia, many members have asked about his Armenian adventure. The news of Austin's decision in April and his departure in May came too quickly to fully digest. His journey to Armenia began with a 6:00 a.m. flight from Akron-Canton airport to Washington, DC on Wednesday, May 26. He spent the day in Washington with 58 other Peace Corps volunteers who were also heading to Armenia. Their Austrian Air flight left Washington Thursday evening and arrived in Vienna on Friday morning. After a delightful afternoon in Vienna, the final leg of Austin's flight began Friday evening, and arrived in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, Saturday morning, May 29. His first words, which we received by email on Wednesday, June 2, were, "I am here and having a blast!"

There are 120 Peace Corps volunteers working in Armenia, which means that as 60 new recruits arrived, 60 others left, while another 60 were beginning their second year of service. Austin's group would spend two months learning the language and becoming immersed in Armenia's culture and history. He was assigned to a host family in a village outside of Yerevan, where he helped with various projects, but spent most of his time in school with eight other Peace Corps volunteers learning all the things mentioned above. He purchased a cell phone, so we heard from him about once a week. He also had access to internet service. He told us that when he stepped out onto the front porch of his host family, he could see Mt. Ararat, which is where Noah's Ark is believed to have come to rest (underneath a glacier). Armenia is located in that area where Europe meets Asia, with Turkey to the west, Georgia to the north, Iran to the south, and Azerbaijan forming the southern border running from east to west, except for where a small part of Iran rubs up against Armenia. It is an ancient culture, with Christian roots dating back to 301 CE, with the establishment of what is now the Armenian Orthodox Church. Since Armenia was a Soviet satellite, religious roots were discouraged and churches fell into disrepair.

Austin found out at the end of June that he had been assigned to Goris, a city with a population of around 40,000, which is located in southern Armenia along the border with Azerbaijan. Turkey closed its border with Armenia in 1993 because of the border dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the territory of Nagorno-Karabach, which, of course, is near where Austin is. Goris is mentioned in history books as far back as 401 BC, when Xenophon – a professional soldier, a student of Socrates, and a noted historian during the time when Sparta and Athens were rivals – made reference to the "*Armenian cave-dwelling troglodytes in Goris*" as he passed through while serving with Persian armies seeking the glory of conquest. *The Wall Street Journal* recently featured Armenia in its travel section, offering this very interesting quote: "*To historians, Armenia is a borderland between East and West, on which the tide of cultural division has washed back and forth since the days of Rome and Persia. To theologians, the country is a window through time. With the ongoing presence of the oldest national church, dating back to its official beginning in 301 CE, Armenian Orthodoxy is a witness to a Christian tradition both ancient and unique. To students of early Christian history, it is both.*" Austin will work with an NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) in Goris, where he will help facilitate the transition from a Soviet-style command economy to one that follows a free market Western model.

