

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR:

I guess it might be okay to admit it. When we followed a small deficit in January with a large deficit in February, I began to worry about how things would work out for us financially this year. It's true that we balance budgets at Zion, the last five, in particular, and our generosity has been proven over the course of our one-hundred-and-ninety-seven years of life in Christ as a Lutheran congregation. And it's true that we have been especially generous these last several years, with a fairly regular dose of outside-the-budget fundraisers for all sorts of property concerns. But I tend to worry about things financial; and I began worrying after February left us in a bit of a hole. Then, March got things back in the black with a small monthly surplus, followed by a monthly surplus in April, and now in May. I know that this may not be the best time to share this, right as we are getting ready to enter the summer months, but I am beginning to feel quite confident about our support of the budget. For that I thank you.

May was a very strong month for us, beginning, of course, with the Sunday of our Ninth Annual Mother's Day Breakfast. Attendance was outstanding, as was the breakfast, and the roses, and the special Mother's Day Program between the services in the Sanctuary. Having our son Austin back, and in the pulpit, was a special treat for Marilyn on Mother's Day, and for me, too. His PowerPoint Presentation, complete with some great pictures of the people and places that have made his work in Armenia interesting and exciting, was a great addition to the morning at Zion and a great day for us. The Synod Assembly arrived the next weekend, and that became the focus of Sunday, May 15. We then began to prepare for Memorial Day, Confirmation, and Pentecost with our usual plea for red geraniums; and it looks like we will have a Chancel filled with red geraniums, against the white background of seven white-robed Confirmands for the first Sunday in June. Then, there's the Festival of Pentecost, when we're asked to wear red yet again, and the Sunday of the Holy Trinity, when the Senior Choir will offer their final choral anthem of the season, followed by the beginning of Ordinary Time, liturgically speaking, when we turn from the seasons in Jesus' life (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, and Easter), to our Lord's presence in the Body of Christ, which is the life of the Church (the season of Pentecost).

June is basically a month of high points, dotted with a couple of opportunities to enjoy some great food. The Chancel Guild celebrates the arrival of summer with their *Chancel Guild Luncheon* on Tuesday, June 14th, with all the women who serve on the Chancel Guild invited. That is followed up with *Zion's Annual Prime Rib Dinner*, prepared by the Singing Chef, hosted by the Men of Zion, and an opportunity for the entire congregation to get in on the act of helping the Men of Zion help our church! The big day for this great feast is Saturday, June 18th, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The menu, obviously enough, features Dale's delicious herb-crusted prime rib, with chicken as an alternate main course, along with baked potatoes, mixed vegetables, salad, dessert, and fine wine for all who dine. Since this dinner is a fundraiser for the many ministries we support at Zion, we hope that everyone will buy a ticket. We literally are helping the men help our church by joining in the fun and fellowship of a delicious dinner. In closing, let me simply say that May was great, and June looks better, for the spiritual diet we enjoy at worship and for the food we'll be serving at our world-class dinners, culminating with the celebration of our life together at the Congregational Meeting we have scheduled for the end of June on Wednesday, June 29th. You guessed it. That big event also features great food! Mark the date. See you there!

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

Our May meeting continued the pattern of strong attendance: Jim Fidler, Sue Heyard, Juanita Cignetti, Dave Palumbo, Cathy Harvey, Jim Dansizen, Mark Votaw, Vicki Givler, Beth Shaheen, Chris Thomas, and Pastor Sherwindt. Our primary business involved preparing for our Congregational Meeting, which was set for Wednesday, June 29, when we will be electing Council members, Deacons, and Trustees.

In his Treasurer’s Report Dave Palumbo provided the encouraging news that our giving through April continued to be strong. The celebration of Holy Week and Easter saw some good follow-through from Lent. March and April have seen a pattern of strong support for the church. It’s true that we are running a year-to-date budget deficit; but we now have two consecutive monthly surpluses. With five Sundays, May should offer some good news, financially speaking; and with our *Annual Prime Rib Dinner* fundraiser in June, we might be looking at four consecutive monthly surpluses.

<u>ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS FOR APRIL</u>	
April Income	24,871.48
April Expenses	<u>22,675.14</u>
April Surplus	2,196.34
Income through April	79,827.72
Expenses thru April	<u>87,044.30</u>
2011 YTD (Deficit)	(7,216.58)
2010 YTD (Deficit)	(7,515.40)

Our early months featured high utility costs, resulting in monthly deficits. Things turned around as Easter approached, and we were able to string together monthly surpluses.

Thank you for your generous support!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The HV/AC Fund: It seems that the total given by members to the HV/AC Fund has turned out to be \$61,006.50. This was matched with \$59,000.00 provided through our Merrill Lynch account, bringing the total in this fund to its goal of \$120,006.50. To date, we have totaled \$113,822.13 in HV/AC and related expenses, leaving us with a balance of \$6,184.37 to cover future expenses. The most visible of these future expenses involves replacing the panels that hide the rooftop units. The truth is that we are very pleased with how much we have saved in utility bills through the installation of our new HV/AC system, and we are thankful, as well, for your generous support of this project.

2011 Elections at Zion: The date for the June Congregational Meeting has been set for Wednesday, June 29. We will begin with dinner, prepared and served by Church Council, at 6:15 p.m. Our meeting will follow in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. This June meeting will focus on elections, filling open positions on the Council, among the Deacons, and with the Trustees. Terms of office run from July 1 though June 30. Council members, deacons, and trustees serve two-year terms, with a term limit of two consecutive terms. The Treasurer alone serves without a limit to the number of terms served consecutively. If you are willing to serve as a Church Council member, Deacon, or Trustee, please let Jim Fidler (President), Sue Heyard (Vice-President), or Pastor Sherwindt know of your interest. We have been blessed with many in our church family who willingly serve in so many ways; and we are always willing to make room for more. Your service is welcome and invited.

THE MEN OF ZION

A **big thank you** to the Men of Zion for putting together another *out-of-this-world* delicious edition of the annual Mother's Day Breakfast, complete with the signature touch of a beautiful single red rose given to each of the women in attendance. In fact, we were truly amazed by the response to this year's extravaganza. Attendance for the breakfast, during the program, and at worship exceeded all expectations. What a great morning! As usual, the menu was world class; the service, filled with love; the event, a huge success.

We now look forward to our **Annual Prime Rib Dinner**, which will serve as a fundraiser for Zion's many ministries. The evening is set for **Saturday, June 18**, when the Singing Chef, with help from the Men of Zion, will prepare his world-famous prime rib, complete with baked potatoes, mixed vegetables, fine wine, salad, and dessert. We are hoping to sell 120 tickets at a cost of \$20.00 per person. It really is well worth the cost. We will talk more about this at our monthly meeting on Wednesday, June 1. The motto for the big event is simple: *Let's Help Our Men Help Our Church*. We've got all the members of Council and many men selling tickets. Let's hope that our appetites are up to the occasion.

Another Delicious Fundraiser for Zion:

Our Annual Prime Rib Dinner
Dale's "Herb-Crusted" Prime Rib
Great Wines, Sides, and Desserts
Saturday, June 18th, 6:00 p.m.

A Great Dinner and a Great Evening:
 All for a Really, Really Great Price!

The Men of Zion hope to sell 120 tickets at \$20.00 apiece.
 Let's All Join in Helping Our Men Help Our Church!

THE WOMEN OF ZION

Renew! Respond! Rejoice! These are the themes that will take us through June, July, and August. According to Catherine Malotky and David Engelstadt, the authors of this summer Bible study, the cloud of witnesses surrounding us can teach us about what it means to bring our best self to the life we've been given. June's theme will focus on *Getting Unstuck*, or letting God soften our hardening heart. Psalm 51 said it best: *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me*. We meet on the third Tuesday, which this month will be **June 21st, at 9:30 a.m. in the Resource Center**.

Zion's Comfort Givers meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, **June 9th and 23rd**. We meet in Luther Hall and begin at 9:30 a.m. We heard good news from Linda Lancashire in May, when she delivered the first half of a \$500.00 grant from the Stark County Chapter of *Thrivent* to help with the cost of batting for our quilting. Great job, Linda! As a reminder to all, we can still use your help and your presence. Please come to enjoy the coffee, our conversation, and the joy that is a part of knowing that we are helping others through the good that we do.

The Annual Chancel Guild Luncheon is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 14th**, in Luther Hall, beginning at Noon. The cost is \$11.00 per person. Our menu looks delicious, and Evelyn Moore asks that all who are interested in attending let her know by Sunday, June 5th.

From all of Zion's Women
To all of Zion's Men:
Thank You for the
Mother's Day Breakfast!

THE NORTHEASTERN OHIO SYNOD ASSEMBLY, MAY 13—14

(Report submitted by Carol Rossbach)

Pastor Sherwindt, Chris Thomas and I attended the Synod Assembly, which was held at the John S. Knight Center in Akron. There were 234 lay persons, 130 clergy and 43 visitors in attendance, for a total of 407, from 194 congregations. The theme was *God's Work, Our Hands: Building Community in the 21st Century*. The assembly opened on Friday following morning prayer. The morning was spent doing the business of the synod: reports of various committees, announcements, election of Synod Council members, and the Bishop's report.

In her report, Bishop Eaton enthusiastically spoke about the Synod's pilot program for stamping out malaria. Bishop Eaton hopes that our Synod will raise \$250,000 for this fight against a disease that kills mostly children. We are well on our way to meeting that goal. The Bishop also reported that 15 congregations have left or are leaving the ELCA and the Northeastern Ohio Synod. She also spoke about a program called *Living Into the Future Together* or *LIFT*. The task force charged with overseeing the implementation of this program will bring attention to the ways in which ELCA congregations can work together as a community to maximize resources for mission. The church-wide campaign to end malaria is an example of the kind of thing we can do together, which we could never accomplish alone.

The Keynote speaker for the session was Dr. Albert Starr, Jr., the ELCA Director for African Descent Ministries. Dr. Starr opened his remarks by singing *What a Mighty God We Serve*, as he reminded us that as Christians we are free, free to serve. His focus was on Galatians 5:13. He then sang *Built On A Rock* and used the words of that song and verses from Nehemiah to show what people can do together as a community. He then referenced the theme of the assembly, *Building Community in the 21st Century*, and cited "building code" violations such as poverty, conflict, homelessness and turmoil. His presentation ended with the playing of a DVD that extended Bishop Mark Hanson's greetings to the Northeastern Ohio Synod.

Of the four workshops that were featured, I attended one called *Welcome to the Wilderness: God's Purpose for your Congregation*, which was presented by the Rev. Ronald Zoesch, our Synod's Director for Evangelical Mission. We discussed the role of the church in today's changing culture. Instead of bemoaning the downward trends, we have to adjust how we operate. Our culture has become more secularized. There is distrust of institutions. There has been a demographic shift. Society has become more diversified and mobile. There is a new presence of other world religions. Technology has exploded. These are challenging times. I also attended a *Faith Based Initiative* workshop, which was led by Karen Kaufman, our Synod's Book of Faith Advocate. She brought us up to date on the latest offerings available and websites where we can find resources. She showed a brief clip of *The Greatest Story*, a 16-session Bible study that includes a video with each session.

Ultimately, representatives were elected, budgets were passed, guidelines were accepted, and prayers were offered. Newly elected representatives were installed with the service that brought our assembly to adjournment on Saturday morning at 11:45 a.m.

LUTHERANS IN ACTION

The Malaria Campaign, a program that was embraced by our Northeastern Ohio Synod at last year's Assembly, has raised \$106,411 to date. Our goal is to get every congregation in the Synod participating as we raise \$250,000 together. This is an unprecedented collaborative effort involving our ELCA, the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, and Lutheran World Relief, mobilizing 8 million Lutherans in the United States to join in the battle against malaria, a preventable disease that kills one million people a year. Zion will join the effort by featuring this campaign during Vacation Bible School. We will direct VBS morning offerings to help assist in the victory we hope to claim against malaria and for children.

What is the mission of the ELCA Malaria Campaign? The ELCA Malaria Campaign enables our church to join with African companion churches in the global effort to prevent, treat, and contain malaria by 2015.

What is the ELCA Malaria Campaign fundraising goal? The ELCA Malaria Campaign has a \$15 million goal. Funds raised will benefit our Lutheran companion churches and companion organizations in ten African countries: Angola, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Where does malaria exist in the world? Malaria has been virtually eradicated in many parts of the world, including the United States, but remains endemic in tropical and subtropical climates in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Although fully preventable and treatable, malaria is still one of the most prevalent infectious diseases in the world, and is especially deadly to children in sub-Saharan Africa, which is where our aid and our help is heading.

ENDING MALARIA NOW

Why is the ELCA involved in fighting malaria through the ELCA Malaria Campaign? The ELCA has a long history of combating malaria through its involvement with companion churches and their health systems. Additionally, global mission personnel have experienced malaria and worked to contain it over many decades of mission service. The ELCA is involved because brothers and sisters in companion churches are suffering with a disease that is both preventable and treatable. Through years of global mission relationships, through the understandings of ELCA World Hunger about the interconnectedness of poverty, hunger, and disease, we have been engaged in working against malaria, HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis, and other major health threats, as well as our ongoing ministries involving hunger and poverty. The ELCA Malaria Campaign is a continuation and an expansion of our global mission, our hunger program and our understanding of what it means to walk together as the Body of Christ. When one member suffers, we all suffer.

Why malaria? Why now? United Nations Millennium Development goals were established as we entered the 21st century to assist the people of the world in attaining achievable benchmarks in order to make the world a better place for everyone, especially people living in poverty. One Millennium Development Goal focused on global health, naming malaria as a global disease needing to be contained. The ELCA Malaria Campaign is thus part of a global movement involving faith-based organizations, businesses, non-profits, governments, and others in efforts to contain malaria by 2015, beginning in Africa, where the incidence of malaria is higher than other impacted areas of the world.

GREAT NEWS FROM ZION'S SUNDAY SCHOOL



UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Sunday, June 5: The last day of the 2010-2011 Sunday School Year: Party at 9:15 a.m.

Sunday, June 5: We Celebrate the Rite of Confirmation during the 10:30 a.m. Service

Wednesday, July 6: Please Try to Pre-Register for this summer's Vacation Bible School

Monday, July 11: VBS, *The Kingdom of the Son, God Listens*: Registration at 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, July 12: VBS, *The Kingdom of the Son, God Provides*: Bring a T-Shirt Today

Wednesday, July 13: VBS, *The Kingdom of the Son, God Forgives*: T-Shirt Day at Zion

Thursday, July 14: VBS, *The Kingdom of the Son, God Protects*: Enjoy this evening, too!

Friday, July 15: VBS, *The Kingdom of the Son, God Rules*: It's Water Day All Day Long

Sunday, September 4: It's time for the End-of-the-Summer Party: Labor Day Weekend

Sunday, September 11: This is a big day for America and a Big Day at Zion: Rally Day

Sunday, September 18: Classes for the New Sunday School Year Begin Today at Zion

SUNDAY SCHOOL: PRE-K THROUGH SIXTH GRADE

Sunday, June 5th, will wrap up this Sunday School Year! We have had a great year of lessons, an awesome Christmas Program and Easter Program, and a lot of fun learning about God's Word. Thank you to our Sunday School teachers and staff. You have done a great job this year! We truly appreciate your dedication to the children of Zion. This year's staff includes some great teachers and helpers: Corlene Coulter, Vicki Givler, Nicole Milek, Sharon Stout, Connie Riffle, and Janet Slease.

We will be taking a break from Sunday School this summer. In other words, there will be no Sunday School classes this summer. We will start up again in September when we kick off the Sunday School year with Rally Day on Sunday, September 11, 2011, Classes will start up again on Sunday, September 18th. Thanks for your support. See you in September.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: CONFIRMATION AND THE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS

We would like to thank Renee Schrader for teaching the Catechism class this year. As always, she did a great job and received very high praise from the kids! Congratulations and blessings to this year's Confirmands – Savannah Heller, Natalie Henderson, Max Jacobs, Lya Milek, David Panzarello, Brandon Stout and Kevin Walters.

Also, thank you to our High School Sunday School leader, Tina Beaver. We appreciate all of your support and dedication to the kids. There were great projects, lessons and discussions that were very important to our High Schoolers' spiritual growth as members of Zion.

THIS YEAR'S VBS: THE KINGDOM OF THE SON, JULY 11—15



Join us Monday through Friday, July 11 through 15, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The kids will go on a prayer safari at Zion's *Kingdom of the Son*, and spend the week learning all about the Lord's Prayer. The daily themes will be GOD LISTENS, GOD PROVIDES, GOD FORGIVES, GOD PROTECTS and GOD RULES! There will be great music, games, food, crafts and service projects. It will be an adventurous week of fun and learning where the kids will take a walk on the wild side and journey into the Serengeti Plains for an expedition into the pages of God's word.

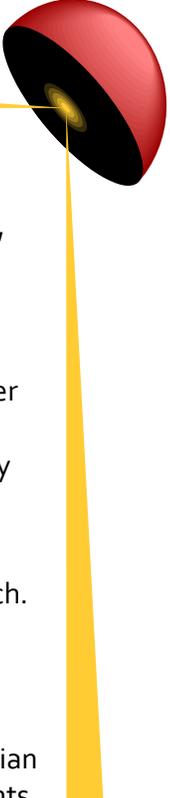
Our VBS program is designed for children from age 5 through the 5th grade. Youth who have completed 6th grade and higher are invited to serve as helpers during the week. We have many volunteer opportunities! Registration packets will be available in the Church Office the week of June 6th. Please turn in your completed forms by **Wednesday, July 6th**, in order to help us order sufficient supplies. We will still accept registrations during the week of VBS. When you turn in your registration form, you will receive this year's Music CD.

We have a busy week planned! We'll get started on Monday with lots of fun and activities! We also hope to have some special guests this year. Wednesday will be T-Shirt day, so each child will need a white T-shirt with their name on the label by Tuesday. Thursday evening is our *Ice Cream Social* at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to join us that evening for our VBS Program, which is always great, and then for ice cream and fellowship that follows. We will also have our *Quilt Raffle* that evening. Friday will be our *Safari Celebration*. This will include lots of water activities and fun games to celebrate our week of learning and service! The children will need their swim suits, towels and sunscreen on Friday! Of course, we will have lessons, crafts, music, games, service projects and lunch each day as well!

It has become an annual expectation that we will host a contest every day between the boys and girls, challenging each to collect more than the other. We like to stick with change, and steer clear of paper; but you would be surprised by the excitement that gathers around our collecting the offering. In the end, everyone wins – the boys, the girls, and the recipient of the offering. This year's recipient will be all the children that benefit from the church-wide effort to end malaria now. What a fitting focus for our kids at Vacation Bible School. When this preventable and treatable disease has ceased to be an infectious killer in sub-Saharan Africa, all of us who were a part of Zion's *Kingdom of the Son* will be able to take some of the credit for getting God's love right. Everyone at Zion can get in the act by donating through the designated offering jars, or by joining us on Thursday evening for the great fun of our Ice Cream Social.

We are looking forward to a great week for our kids, staff, and parents, as we learn about the Lord's Prayer and take a wild, adventurous prayer safari! We are always in need of volunteers for the week. You are qualified to volunteer: we guarantee it! Please consider joining us one, two, or all five days. It is a rewarding and enjoyable experience, and you will be working with a great group of kids! We will put up sign-up sheets for food and supplies in Luther Hall, and we have put out donation cans for those who are interested in helping. If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer, call Debbie Fox (330-966-2433), or Jayne Schrader (330-499-3909).

Congratulations, Confirmands



Savannah Heller is finishing up eighth grade at Hudson Montessori School. She is the daughter of Drew & Beth Heller, younger sister to Christian, older sister to Summer, and a life-long member of Zion Lutheran Church, with three generations of members. Pets, soccer, ballet, violin, piano, and art are her interests, although not in that order. We look forward to the many ways she will continue to be involved among us as a Confirmed member at Zion.

Natalie Henderson is finishing up eighth grade at North Canton Middle School. She is the daughter of Robert and Johanna Henderson, the older sister of Christian, and a life-long member of Zion Lutheran Church, also with three generations of members. Two dogs, a cat, two hermit crabs, ice cream, volleyball, lacrosse, and science are her interests. We look forward to the many ways she will continue to be involved among us as a Confirmed member at Zion.

Max Jacobs is finishing up eighth grade at Jackson Middle School. He is the son of Dale Jacobs and Jane Tucker, and also a life-long multi-generational member at Zion Lutheran Church. Wrestling, track, scouting, music, singing in choirs at school, singing in Zion's choirs here at church, and any kind of chicken: these are his favorites. All of us look forward to the many ways Max will continue to be active and involved as a Confirmed member at Zion.

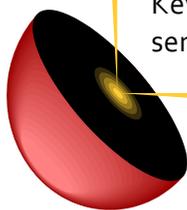
Lya Milek is finishing up seventh grade at Oakwood Middle School. She is the daughter of Brian and Nikki Milek, and an older sister to Kat, Weston, and Amelia. Lya joined Zion when her parents moved to the area from the Twin Cities, returning to Ohio to pursue job-related opportunities. Art, drama, drawing, pizza, ice cream, and soccer are among her favorites. We are so glad the Mileks found us. We look forward to the many ways Lya will continue to grow in God's grace among us.

David Panzarello is finishing up seventh grade at North Canton Middle School. His family includes his Mom, Loretta, and older brothers, Derek and Douglas. He joined our church with the celebration of his Baptism last year, and has been an attendance standout in Renee's Confirmation Class. Football, horses, guitar, pizza, chicken, and tacos are among his favorites; and we welcome the many ways he will remain active among us as a Confirmed member.

Brandon Stout is finishing up eighth grade at North Canton Middle School. He is the son of Rick and Sharon Stout, the older brother of Brooke, a life-long multi-generational member of Zion, and a first cousin to fellow Confirmand Natalie Henderson. Baseball, basketball, martial arts, social studies, chicken and spaghetti are among his favorites. We look forward to the many ways he will continue to grow in his knowledge of God's grace as a Confirmed member of Zion.

Kevin Walters is finishing up eighth grade at Jackson Middle School. He is the son of Brian and Suzanne Walter, and "in the middle" between older sister Kelly and younger brother Casey. World history, karate, drama, singing, trumpet, French horn, mac & cheese, and the Black Eyed Peas are among his favorites. We have appreciated his active involvement in all the programs we offer; and we look forward to his remaining active and involved as a Confirmed member.

"Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in Savannah, Natalie, Max, Lya, David, Brandon, and Kevin the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm their faith; guide their lives, empower them in their serving, give them patience in suffering, and bring them to everlasting life ... in Jesus' name."



JAYNE'S ECOLOGY CORNER

Computers and electronic items such as cell phones and iPods have made our lives easier and have kept us connected to what is going on in the world. Having the ability to receive your bills electronically and then pay them online is a great convenience and has also helped save paper and postage. A study by Kaiser Permanente into the use of health information technology concludes that electronic health records could lower carbon dioxide emissions by as much as 1.7 million tons if used across the whole U.S. population. The health insurance industry has saved 1,044 tons of paper for medical charts and reduced toxic chemicals by 33.3 tons from X-ray machines by digitizing and archiving scans. This is all good for our environment and our earth.

However, due to ongoing technological advancement, many electronic products become obsolete in a very short period of time, creating a large surplus of unwanted electronic products, or "e-waste." E-waste is generally considered anything that plugs into a wall or accepts batteries. E-waste has surfaced as an important issue, because it can be dangerous if disposed of improperly.

According to the EPA, the nation now dumps between 300 million and 400 million electronic items in landfills per year. Toxic chemicals in products either leach into the land over time or are released into the atmosphere, affecting nearby communities and the environment. So please dispose of your e-waste in a manner that will keep our environment safe. Many retailers have instituted take-back programs and municipalities have created drop-off locations to help control e-waste issues. Check Earth911.com for a list of recycling centers near you.

A NEW MEETING AT ZION

Beginning the second Wednesday in June, which is June 8, NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will be offering a free support group meeting for caregivers of those who are dealing with neurological brain disorders, otherwise known as mental illness. These meetings will be held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. here at Zion in the Resource Center.

While hosting these support group meetings may be new to Zion, the challenges faced by persons struggling with these disorders and the need for support among caregivers and families is something some of our members have been living with for years. Shirley & Charlie Cavender and Becky Aquilo took the initiative to enroll in a 12-week *Family-to-Family* class, began attending NAMI monthly meetings, completed a *facilitator training class* last fall, and are now certified through NAMI to be facilitators for support groups for those caring for a loved one with a neurobiological brain disorder.

They bring their own history and a shared hope to these meetings. They have known first-hand the benefit offered through these support group meetings. They also have come to appreciate how important it is for all involved to remove the stigma that has long been associated with struggling with what is now known to be a neurological brain disorder. Our support group for family and friends of persons with a mental illness will provide a place to learn from each other's experiences, to offer encouragement, to share coping strategies, and to grow in understanding. No registration is required. Just come and join us. Call Shirley Cavender with any questions you might have.

WORSHIP ODDS 'N ENDS

There are two main cycles in the church year: *Sacred Time* and *Ordinary Time*. The first cycle is organized around our Lord's life, from his birth at Christmas through his rebirth on Easter, including the preparatory season of Advent and the fifty days following Easter, culminating with Pentecost. The cycle of *Sacred Time* includes the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, through Ascension Day to the Festival of Pentecost. The liturgical colors vary from blue for Advent to white for Christmas to green for Epiphany to purple for Lent to white for Easter and red for the Festival of Pentecost.

Ordinary Time begins with the Sundays after the Festival of Pentecost. The focus of our lessons is on various aspects of our faith. Thus, the first Sunday after Pentecost is set aside to lift up the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. The mission of the church then takes center stage as *Ordinary Time* continues through the summer into fall, culminating with the Festival of Christ the King Sunday, which is the last Sunday of the church year. The liturgical color for *Ordinary Time* is green. Green has traditionally been associated with new life and growth. In Hebrew, the same word in the Old Testament for the color *green* also means *young*. In Christian tradition, green came to symbolize the life of the church, as well as our hope of new life as we share in Christ's resurrection.

In short, the Festival of Pentecost, which signals the birth of the church, leads to the season of Pentecost, which focuses on the mission of the church. The last Sunday in *Sacred Time* leads to the many Sundays that make up *Ordinary Time*, where *Ordinary* refers to the *Ordinal*, which is the number that identifies which Sunday after Pentecost it is that we are celebrating.

ODDS 'N ENDS AT HOME

We extend our thanks to the many members and friends of Zion who contributed 100 red geraniums, both to beautify our Sanctuary for Confirmation, and to fill our landscaping beds for the summer. In addition to red geraniums, members donated enough cash to purchase a huge pile of mulch to help with weeding during the summer. Our quiet gardeners have included Ruth Elsass, Audrey Hartman, Carol Rossbach, Faye Shankle, Jayne Schrader, Renee Schrader, Gail Vogt, and Betty Tracy. We thank them – and you – for helping to keep Zion beautiful.

An Outdoor Workday has been scheduled for the morning of Saturday, June 18, beginning at 8:00 a.m. With the new geraniums recently planted, it looks like our primary work will be to spread the mulch throughout our many landscaping beds. Plus, we've got some work to do in cleaning out our gutters. We've got a big night coming up after the cleaning day, with our *Annual Prime Rib Dinner* starting at 6:00 p.m. We can use all the help we can get, especially if we want to get everything done in time to get home to get ready for the feast to come. Please plan on joining us. That's the morning of Saturday, June 18th, at 8:00 a.m.