

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR:

June was a month of Sundays celebrating the life of our church family, and July promises more of the same. It was the celebration of Confirmation on June 5th, when seven Confirmands – Savannah Heller, Natalie Henderson, Max Jacobs, Lya Milek, David Panzarello, Brandon Stout, Kevin Walters – joined the ranks of full membership at Zion. Renee (Schrader) Keith has been their Confirmation Instructor, and Debbie Fox (Christian Education Director), Tina Beaber (Learning Ministry Elder), Chuck Danner, and Brian Milek were also present to join in the *laying on of hands* as we prayed for God's blessings and gifts in the journey of faith that awaits them. The church was filled with red geraniums to honor the occasion, and also as a sign of our anticipation of the Festival of Pentecost, which would arrive on June 12th.

In all honesty, the Festival of Pentecost is still a blur to me, as I spent most of the day on the road to and from Columbus to marvel as the Ohio State University conferred over nine thousand seven hundred degrees in Ohio Stadium – on time, in order, and to the right persons, one of which was our daughter Anna, who is briefly referenced in the second column on page 79 of the complete commencement guide for 2011. What a model of efficiency, from the parking, to the stadium, during the commencement, and then on to a celebratory dinner, followed by the long drive back from Columbus. All that I remember is that I arrived back in time to witness yet another miracle, this one involving our Singing Chef, who created another masterpiece, our Prime Rib Dinner at Zion on the weekend of Father's Day, when we served 120 in Luther Hall, making Zion culinary history, while raising \$1,500.00 for the many ministries we support.

On the last Sunday in June we took a moment at both worship services to thank Ethan Frock and Christian Heller for their faithful service and active involvement among us. Both young men have put together some great academic credentials, along with an impressive record of community service, while making their way through High School. Both are getting ready to head off to college, Ethan to Penn State University and Christian to Northeastern University in Boston, where we expect that they will continue to excel in all that they do as they grow in faith, understanding, and service. It is always a proud moment for our congregational family when we can mark those crucial milestones that celebrate the blessings that are ours as we go about God's business of growing in love and service by grace.

That brings us to the blessing we offer our neighbors and our community with the ministry of Vacation Bible School. This year that week is set for July 11 through 15. Our kids are invited to join us on a prayer safari at Zion's *Kingdom of the Son*, when we will 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! That's Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., complete with lunch, crafts, games, lessons, music, and a whole lot more. All are welcome, and everyone is invited. All we know is that we'll have lots of fun, and a huge need for volunteers to help us create yet another "best week ever" for all the folks who join us. As I said, June was a month of Sunday's celebrating the life of our church family, and July promises more of the same. Why not take the time to join in the effort of trusting God's grace, living Christ's love, and watching the Spirit come alive in the work we do and the joy we share ... living and serving ... in Jesus' name.

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

Our June meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Jim Fidler. In attendance were Susan Heyard, Dave Palumbo, Juanita Cignetti, Dale Jacobs, Cathy Harvey, Jim Dansizen, Vicki Givler, Chris Thomas, Beth Shaheen, and Pastor Sherwindt. Absent were Tina Beaber, Jim Dansizen, and Mark Votaw. Our primary business involved preparing for our Congregational Meeting on Wednesday, June 29, when we will elect members to serve on Church Council, and with the Deacons and Trustees.

In his Treasurer’s Report Dave Palumbo reported that we have continued our string of consecutive monthly surpluses through May, which makes three in a row; and it looks like June will continue that trend. Total Income for the month of \$22,466.24 exceeded Total Expenses of \$21,091.53, leaving a monthly surplus of \$1,374.71. This reduces our year-to-date budget deficit to \$5,841.87, which is better than where we were this time last year when he had a year-to-date deficit of \$6,402.61. What is even better news is that while June of last year saw us run a substantial deficit, this year June will show a nice surplus. Great job!

<u>ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS FOR MAY</u>	
May Income	22,466.24
May Expenses	<u>21,091.53</u>
<i>May's Surplus</i>	<i>1,374.71</i>
<i>April's Surplus</i>	<i>2,196.34</i>
<i>March's Surplus</i>	<i>1,599.53</i>
Income through May	107,293.96
Expenses thru May	<u>113,135.83</u>
<i>2011 YTD (Deficit)</i>	<i>(5,841.87)</i>
<i>2010 YTD (Deficit)</i>	<i>(6,402.61)</i>
<i>Thank you for your generous support!</i>	

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our evening began with a light but delicious salad in Memorial Hall. Grilled chicken topped the many salad bar options served by Council in preparing our congregational dinner. Our meeting followed in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. Jim Fidler called us to order. Carole Singer accompanied our opening song. Pastor Sherwindt led us in prayer. Then we took some time to thank Tina Beaber, Chris Thomas, Nick Cignetti, Adam Schrader, and John Brokloff for time served. We are so blessed with members who are willing to do what they can to make our congregation healthy and strong through the time they give and the talents they share.

That spirit of generosity was present with this year’s election ballot. Susan Heyard, Dave Palumbo, Cathy Harvey, and Dale Jacobs were willing to serve yet another term on Council; they were joined by Lorin Beaber and Renee Keith, who rejoined the Council after a four year break. Nick Cignetti and Chris Thomas were willing to serve as Trustees; Steve Dague and Chuck Danner re-upped as Deacons. We thank them for their willingness to step forward upon hearing God’s call and ours.

The meeting itself was both concise and delightful. Everyone had enjoyed the great crowd that gathered and the delicious food Council served when the evening began. The desserts alone were well worth the time we took to convene a meeting, exceed a quorum, and elect our slate of candidates with heartfelt acclaim and resounding unanimity. Their willingness to serve invites broad congregational support in response. As we work together, we know that God will provide all we need to do the work we are called, equipped, and empowered to do.

THE MEN OF ZION

Another big thank you to the Men of Zion, this time for taking the lead in hosting yet another edition of our Annual Prime Rib Dinner. Between Council members and the Men of Zion, we sold more tickets than we printed, and everyone who had a ticket received a meal that topped all expectations. Our Singing Chef did a masterful job of getting the prime rib, with baked chicken as an alternative, the baked potatoes, mixed vegetables, salad, dessert, and all the extras out of the kitchen on time, in order, and with a gourmet touch that was out of this world.

This year's edition was huge, to say the least, and we thank all of our members and friends for helping us raise money for a good cause, namely, all the things we do to reach in with love and out with service. Total income through the sale of tickets exceeded \$3,000. After expenses, we raised over \$1,500 for the many ministries we support here at Zion. For the Men of Zion, the Prime Rib Dinner was just half of the day, which began at 8:00 a.m. with an outside work day. We spread seven yards of mulch, cleaned the gutters, did some trimming, and a lot of outdoor cleaning. We would like to thank our mulchers and planters for making the outside of the church look really good for Father's Day.

The list begins with Chris Thomas, and includes Jayne Schrader, Audrey Hartman, Ruth & Verle Elsass, Chuck Danner, Faye Shankle, Renee Keith, Gail Vogt, Garry Leed, Carol Rossbach, Gary Horton, Bob Lancashire, Carl Geib, Betty Tracy, John Brokloff, Dan Wilson, and Dean Yoder. We've still got lots to do on the outside. We can use all the helpers we can muster when we paint and stain the pavilion in August. Watch for sign-up sheets as we get ourselves organized for that huge one-day project.

THE WOMEN OF ZION

Renew! Respond! Rejoice! This month we celebrate our being gifted to serve, as we remember Mary's response to hearing of God's plans for her in Luke: "*My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has looked with favor on the lowliness of His servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed!*" This session shifts our focus from renewal to response. Mary was a young woman full of potential, engaged to be married, at the front end of a life she could imagine might be full of dreams yet to come true. As these dreams came true, she needed all the strength her faith in God could provide to endure the turns her life took and to meet life's challenges with an amazing resiliency. To learn more of Mary's courage and grace, join us on July 19th, when we gather in the Resource Center at 9:30 a.m. for our monthly Bible study.

Zion's Comfort Givers meet every day during the week of Vacation Bible School, **July 11th through July 15th**, as we join the kids in producing a whole lot of quilts for Lutheran World Relief. There will surely be lots to do, and we'll need all the help we can get. 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. You'll enjoy being a part of a great week at Zion. There's nothing like Vacation Bible School to keep you young!

Not to be outdone by the food the Men of Zion have enjoyed, **Zion's Chancel Guild** gathered in Luther Hall on June 14th for a Chancel Guild Luncheon that was both light and delicious. It was almost sinful! A light salad, a delectable chicken casserole, and Banana's Foster for dessert! Susan Heyard provided our devotions; and Betty Tracy led the meeting. All agreed: let's do this again!

GREAT NEWS FROM ZION'S SUNDAY SCHOOL



UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

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 FOR PRE-K THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL

We are taking a summer break from Sunday School classes. In other words, there are no Sunday School classes for our children this summer. This doesn't mean that we will not have an active Christian Education for our kids this summer. Just take a look at what is coming with Vacation Bible School. You'll find out more as you take a look at the next page. After that, we will start up again in September when we kick off the Sunday School year with Rally Day on Sunday, September 11, 2011. Sunday School classes will start up again on Sunday, September 18th.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONTINUES FOR OUR ADULT CLASS

We have finished our study of Paul's Epistle to the Romans. The Book of Romans offered a comprehensive and systematic study of St. Paul's understanding of the gospel and his mission. Our next study is called *Making Sense of the Christian Faith*. Author David Lose leads us through all the major topics when it comes to talking about God: how things began (creation), what went wrong (sin), finding our way back (through community), wondering how things will end up (eschatology), with little dabs of Incarnation, Atonement, Church, and Holy Spirit along the way. What could be better than making sense of our Christian faith with friends who have fun finding our way together?

David Lose holds the Marbury E. Anderson Chair in Biblical Preaching at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. His passion is engaging believers with the Bible. "If you believe, with me," he writes, "that the Christian life should take seriously both our heads and our hearts, our doubts and our faith, and involves as many questions as it does answers, then I invite you to read on and explore what the heart adds to our understanding of God and of the Christian faith." The Adult Sunday School Class meets in Luther Hall between the services on Sunday morning. That's 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Everyone is invited. All are welcome.

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



Our prayer safari is about to begin! Join us: Monday through Friday, July 11th – 15th, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., as the kids 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 are GOD LISTENS, GOD PROVIDES, GOD FORGIVES, GOD PROTECTS and GOD RULES! There will be great music, games, food, crafts and service projects of course. 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 for an expedition into the pages of God's word.

Our VBS program is designed for children age 5 through those who have completed 5th grade. Youth who have completed 6th grade and higher are invited to help during the week. We have many volunteer opportunities! Registration packets are available in the Church Office. If you could turn in your completed registration forms by **Wednesday, July 6th** that would be great because it would help us in our desire to order sufficient supplies. However, we'll be accepting registrations right up to when VBS begins, and then during the week as well.

We have a busy week planned! We'll get started on Monday with lots of fun and activities! 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, and then for ice cream and fellowship afterwards. We will also have our *Quilt Raffle* that evening. Friday will be our *Safari Farewell Celebration*. This will include 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! We'll have lessons, crafts, music, games, service projects, and lunch each day! 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 and adventurous prayer safari!



OFFERINGS: It has become an annual expectation that we will host a daily contest 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 that morning gathering time when we collect the offering. In the end, everyone wins – the boys, the



girls, and especially 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. This worldwide campaign is hoping to raise \$15,000,000 with the goal of preventing, treating, and containing malaria by 2015. What a fitting focus for our kids at VBS. 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.

ZION'S KINGDOM OF THE SON: JULY 11—15, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



ZION'S FOOD PANTRY: We ask that each child bring in a food item each day, if possible. This food will help stock our Food Pantry, which has been about the ministry of helping many families in the community for going on eleven years. With unemployment still a serious problem in northeast Ohio and gas prices sky high, there has never been as great a need for this ministry as there is right now. This will be one of the ways that we help neighbors in need right here in our own community.

QUILT SQUARES: The children will once again create quilt squares for Zion's Comfort Givers to sew quilts for Lutheran World Relief. The quilts we sew become part of a larger gathering of quilts that are shipped all over the world to families who need them. It has become our tradition to raffle off one quilt, to be chosen by the winner, on Thursday evening at the Ice Cream Social. Tickets will be available during the week. As usual, the price is one ticket for a dollar, or six tickets for five dollars. Join us for all the fun that evening. You will enjoy the program, the ice cream, and the raffle; and you'll also enjoy the feeling of satisfaction that comes with knowing that we're helping folks both here and around the world.

DAILY PROJECTS: The children will work on a service project each day during the week. Some of these projects will connect us with kids all over the globe; and other projects will ask our kids to connect with the persons who live with us at home. We think that this is a healthy mix of helping neighbors far away and those who live right next door.



SCHOOL KITS: We will be collecting items for school kits to help children in our community. Items needed are backpacks, notebooks, paper, folders, binders, glue, pencils, erasers, crayons, scissors, rulers and markers. Bring in your donations by Wednesday, July 13th. If anyone in the congregation is interested in donating items, we invite your generosity. Just leave items you wish to donate in the Church Office. That goes for supporting our campaign to end malaria, too. Cash contributions are welcome.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE FOR YOU: We are looking forward to a great week and hope you will join us! Again, we are 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 truly is a rewarding and enjoyable experience, and you will be working with a great group of kids! We've put out 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, please feel free to call Debbie Fox (330-966-2433), or Jayne Schrader (330-499-3909).



As always, thank you for your great support! The wide reach of Zion's family never ceases to surprise us with all we give for this great event. We look forward to your joining in the fun! That's Monday through Friday, July 11–15, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. God blessings to all!

JAYNE'S ECOLOGY CORNER

What is Eco-Green Living? Aren't you glad I asked? *Eco-Green Living* is about living life, as an individual and a community, in a way that is sustainable for the earth. Living a green life involves the following principles: conserve resources; reduce waste; reduce pollution. *Eco-Green Living* is important because as more nations become developed and affluent, and as more communities adopt our culture of consumerism, and as more industries respond to meet the demand for goods and services through mass production, resources and energy are being used up at very rapid rates.

At the same time, in this complicated world where we are creating new products from all sorts of chemicals all the time, you cannot imagine the pace at which pollutants and harmful substances are released into the environment and materials are discarded as waste. Let's face it, it's hard to always notice how much pollution we create in the process of being modern consumers, but anything we can do to be careful about the energy we waste and the waste we create will help maintain the ecological balance we need to continue to survive and thrive.

Of course, it's not just about our survival. We share the planet with creatures galore, many we know about and many more we don't. Their surviving and thriving is also our interest, and our responsibility, as Genesis makes clear. Sure, there's a cost to *Eco-Green Living*; but if this helps us to remain sensitive to the limits of Mother Earth, attentive to the needs of other creatures around us, and more responsible with how we live and what we waste, then the cost is surely worth the gain, both as persons trying to live morally and as Christians trying to live faithfully.

NEWS FROM THE ELCA

In a letter to congregations in the Northeastern Ohio Synod dated June 22, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton reminded us that the Western North Dakota Synod, home to Minot and the Souris River, is our domestic companion synod. We are all well aware of the disastrous flooding that has caused massive damage and loss for our partners. Bishop Eaton wants us to be among the first to reach out with helping hands and a generous heart. More than 4,000 homes, along with businesses and other structures, have been damaged or destroyed after record-breaking flood waters consumed Minot.

The ELCA through Lutheran Disaster Response is already active in responding. Our help is needed to bring immediate relief and ongoing support to communities affected. The good news is that gifts given to Lutheran Disaster Response through Zion will be used in full – 100%, with no overhead – to help disaster survivors clean-up, rebuild, and recover. If you would like your offering to be a part of our support for Lutheran Disaster Response, make your check payable to Zion Lutheran Church, with “U.S. Floods” on the memo line. Our Deacons will make sure that your intention is noted. Our Treasurer will make sure that it gets forwarded to those who are helping our partners in North Dakota.

Also, don't forget that every congregation in the Northeastern Ohio Synod has until the end of July to participate in the churchwide goal of *Ending Malaria Now*. Our Synod's goal is to get 100% participation in raising \$250,000 for the cause; and we are well on our way of doing just that. Zion has chosen to feature this campaign during Vacation Bible School, when all of us are invited to make our contribution ... through donation cans, the Sunday offering, or regular snail mail.

ODDS 'N ENDS AT ZION

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) continues to have meetings in the Resource Center on the second & fourth Wednesdays of each month, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. That would be July 13th and 27th. Please contact Becky Aquilo and Shirley Cavender with any questions you might have.

The Men of Zion will not meet in July; but we will meet the first Wednesday in August, which is August 3rd. Our regular ritual is to meet for dinner in Luther Hall. All of Zion's men are invited. Something special will be cooking, as we cook up a plan for painting the pavilion. That's Wednesday, August 3rd, at 6:00 p.m. in Luther Hall.

Zion's Worship Ministry will meet in the Pastor's Office at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month, which is July 19th.

Zion Steering Ministry will meet the night before Church Council meets. Our Council meets Tuesday, July 12th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Resource Center, and the Steering Ministry July 11th, at 7:00 p.m. in Pastor's Office.

Food Pantry Tuesdays during the summer are set for July 5th and 19th, and August 2nd and 16th. The Food Pantry Crew meets at 9:30 a.m. to begin their day of volunteer service. Food is unloaded from vans, and the gym is set up for the families we serve. The distribution of food, along with clothing and house-hold items, takes place from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. It's a great day for service. Plan to join us. You'll be glad you did; and so will we.

The Lutheran Men in Mission Present:

**Our Annual Seminary Scholarship
Best Ball Scramble Golf Outing
Rain Tree Country Club
July 9, 2011, 11:00 a.m.**

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

THANK YOU'S AND MORE

Dear Pastor Sherwindt and our Zion family,

We are all grateful for your visits, the flowers, your prayers and support during the illness and passing of wife, mother, and grandmother, Helen Edwards. To the Women of Zion, we express our heartfelt gratitude for your support during Helen's extended period of illness and decline, and for the delicious lunch you provided in Luther Hall after the Memorial Service.

With that in mind, we thank Pastor Sherwindt and Jayne Schrader for all they did in getting ready for what was a beautiful service, with special thanks to Dale Jacobs for helping with the funeral luncheon and singing during the worship service.

Art Edwards & family

Dear Pastor Sherwindt and Men of Zion,

First, let me thank you for your support of our Lutheran Men in Mission Annual Golf Outing to raise funds for seminary student scholarships. Your support in last year's outing was important to our seminarians. With the success of the 2010 outing we were able to provide \$500 scholarships to nine Northeastern Ohio Synod seminarians. We hope to have larger number of golfers (and sponsors) this year.

The outing will be at the Rain Tree Country Club, Mayfair Road, in Uniontown on July 9th, with an 11 a.m. tee time. Your support is welcome, whether it be by joining us to golf, being a sponsor, donating a door prize, or praying for good weather and a successful outing. The Lutheran Men in Mission of the Northeastern Ohio Synod are committed to supporting our seminarians in any way we can. Thank you for your help & interest.

Bernie Bresson & Sandy Sandbrink

CELEBRATING THE WEDDING OF JOSH AND RENEE

(June 11, 2011, 4:30 p.m., here at Zion Lutheran Church)

I usually reserve this page for excerpts from sermons at the Service of Christian Burial for one of our members. However, I thought you might enjoy excerpts from a different kind of sermon, one offered at the Service of Christian Marriage we celebrated recently for two of our members, Josh and Renee (nee Schrader) Keith. The big day was June 11, and this is, in part, what I had to say:

What a fairy tale story, an all-American tale! You can travel the country, even the world, or check out the match-making prowess of the latest technological wonders online. I'm not saying that any have, just that it is classic that Josh would find that the girl for him was right next door. I love it. Of course, more important than my loving it is their loving each other, which they do, clearly and without doubt. So, what can I say today that might make it easier to understand how the love they share can become the kind of love that will last a life-time? The world is filled with models of love that don't last, whether we're talking about Hollywood icons, or royal families, or combinations of the two, as with Arnold and Maria. When I stand in the pulpit on occasions like this, I've sometimes found it fun to check out our pop-culture's top forty for contemporary advice of the secrets to love. I'm sure you all remember Paul Simon's take on the commitment we strive for with marriage: "Just slip out the back, Jack. Make a new plan, Stan. You don't need to be coy, Roy. Just get yourself free." Oh, wrong model.

Call me old-fashioned, or just a pastor who has accepted his role as spokesman and advocate for the traditions we value and the institutions that embody and extend them, but I think marriage is a model that really does give our love a chance to flourish, to grow as we grow, shaped by a context of shared responsibilities and expectations that don't confine or constrict our love, but free love to become creative because we learn to trust that we can count on each other due to the promises we've made and the vows we've exchanged. Josh and Renee have stumbled into an American tale of finding love in the girl next door. "Getting ourselves free," as Paul Simon quips, is not something that happens when we lose ourselves and the people that matter to us. Freedom happens when we stay the course, face the truth, and can share the joy that follows with those we love and those that love us; and that's what we learn as we listen to the Scriptures teach us about the meaning of love and truth and freedom.

We can rejoice in the love Josh and Renee share, and rejoice still more that they are here in this place, standing before the Cross that has revealed for all the world to see what God's love looks like and how to live it. Here with this model in front of us, and the support of friends and family surrounding us, Josh and Renee will define their lives with their promises made and vows exchanged. The exchanging of vows is more than a wedding toast to "here's hopin' that when morning comes and the future unfolds we're sufficiently the same to regard these promises as our own." It is the commitment that in the midst of all life's changes yet to come, their being husband and wife to each other is something they want never to change. Marriage brings the stability of known expectations and the security of shared hopes and responsibilities to the romance and passion love has kindled. It creates a context in which love can take flight and soar in finding new ways to blossom and grow. With God's love, with your support, with their promises made and vows exchanged, all the ingredients are present to create a love that will last a lifetime. That's their hope, to which we join our prayers ... in Jesus' name. Amen