

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR:

We turn the page on a very successful first quarter, with the first surplus we have seen heading into the spring in seven years! We have, indeed, balanced our budgets all of these years, but mostly by relying on our fourth quarter push with the generosity that flows from Thanksgiving and Christmas. This year we decided to get ahead of ourselves with Early Bird Giving; and your generous response created a better than \$12,000 turn-around comparing this year with last year. At the end of March last year, we had a year-to-date deficit of (\$9,412.⁹²). At the end of March this year, we were sitting on a surplus of \$2,952.⁵⁸. That's a turn-around of \$12,365.⁵⁰! We will add to that surplus in April, both because of your generous support for your church and because there were five Sundays in April, in addition to our full schedule of services celebrating Holy Week: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.

Even though winter has threatened to return a time or two, for the most part, a mild winter and the early arrival to spring kept expenses lower than usual. The calendar and Early Bird Giving lifted giving higher. We give thanks to God – and to you – for the strength we have been able to enjoy through April. Now we enter a month that features a Spring Cleaning Day on Saturday, May 5th, our Tenth Annual Mother's Day Breakfast on Sunday, May 13th, the election of officers at our Congregational Meeting on Wednesday, May 23rd, and the Festival of Pentecost, which is on the calendar for Sunday, May 27th. It is a busy month, with opportunities to share in the work of the congregation, as we celebrate the love that abounds among us, along with good food and great fellowship. The Northeastern Ohio Synod Assembly is set for June 1—2, and our Senior Choir will make a joyful noise as we celebrate the end of the choral year on June 3rd, the Sunday that focuses on the mystery of the Holy Trinity.

We have enjoyed some areas of great strength over the course of the ten years that I have served as Zion's Pastor. The crises that led to my call are far behind us. Budgets in balance with small surpluses have been the rule, and we have added a series of property improvements to our many accomplishments: a new roof for the parsonage, renovating the restrooms, replacing the sound the system, adding color and light to our Sanctuary, addressing the challenge of installing a new boiler and HV/AC system, and installing some new carpet, too! And let's not forget the strong record of benevolence we displayed throughout, with record support for the Northeastern Ohio Synod, annual offerings for our Food Pantry & Clothing Closet, all sorts of special collections for causes like the Lutheran Malaria Initiative, summer camps in Armenia, helping New Orleans Heal, Parts 1, 2, and 3, while also tending to local efforts that sent Melanie Slease to Germany and sustained Steve Dague and his family right here in North Canton during the rehabilitation that followed a serious spinal cord injury back in 2008.

Now we begin to look ahead to our Bicentennial Celebration in 2014. Our Bicentennial Task Force had its first meeting, with Darlene Milavickas reminding us that June 14, 1814 is the official date of our founding. We have lots to do as we think to what might fill our year in trying to do justice to two hundred years of growing in love and service by grace. Please help us imagine all that we might do, and then say YES to our invitations to join us in the work we'll need to do to make our bicentennial all that it can be, and more, because we're still living the history we'll be celebrating with, you guessed it, good food, great fellowship, God's love and ours.

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

Our meeting in April occurred with the dreaded tax deadline of April 15 looming, but still Dave Palumbo was able to email us a good look at the good news that made up our first quarter. Council members on hand were Jim Fidler, Juanita Cignetti, Brian Milek, Mark Votaw, Vicki Givler, Lorin Beaber, Cathy Harvey, Dale Jacobs, Renee Keith, Beth Shaheen, and Pastor Sherwindt. We began promptly at 7:00 p.m.

Our financial facts for March were strong, resulting with our third consecutive monthly surplus this year. Income was strong, while winter backed off, and expenses were well below normal for the year. We have saved money on snow-plowing and salting, as well as on utility bills. We also negotiated a maintenance agreement for our office equipment that will save us more than \$500.⁰⁰ over the course of the year. One area where we increased our expenses is in mission support. Our support for the Northeastern Ohio Synod is tracking higher; and we are maintaining a very healthy balance in funds that support our Food Pantry & Clothing Closet. We are really in good shape thanks to your generosity.

| ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS FOR MARCH | |
|---|--------------------|
| March Income | 19,911.65 |
| March Expenses | <u>19,515.63</u> |
| March Surplus | 396.02 |
| Income thru March | 66,578.72 |
| Expenses thru March | <u>63,626.14</u> |
| 2012 YTD Surplus | 2,952.58 |
| <i>2011 YTD (Deficit)</i> | <i>(9,412.92)</i> |
| Our Food Pantry Fund | \$4,357.71 |
| Zion's Youth Fund | \$5,679.66 |
| <i>We thank you for your generous support!</i> | |

MORE COUNCIL NEWS

Worship Ministry: Our Holy Week Services were truly exceptional this year. The Sunday School Program, *A Banner Easter*, featured at the 10:30 a.m. service on Palm Sunday, was a great production of really good news; and at the 8:00 a.m. service, Jim Fidler's portrayal of Caiaphas provided a powerful introduction to the themes that would dominate the rest of the week. Quiet Communion at Noon on Maundy Thursday isn't so quiet anymore. Between the story of *The Ragman*, special music by Margaret Reichenbach on organ, and visitors from Senior Independence, this service adds a much-needed healing touch to the week, while our evening service ends with the stark symbolism of the Chancel stripped of all color as we prepare for the bleakness of black on Good Friday. The Ecumenical Stations of the Cross at Walsh University brings our community together, while the historic Tenebrae brings the message of Christ's death home to all: the long shadows cast as sunset turns to evening, thoughtful meditations, the choir asking *Were You There*, total darkness, the loud strepitus. It all culminates with Easter Sunday: the fragrant lilies, special music, trumpet accompaniment, big hymns, great joy, Holy Communion, pews filled, and so much more. We would like to thank everyone who helped to make this historic season for the church so very meaningful for us: the Sunday School staff and all of our children, Zion's Senior Choir, the Praise Team, our Choir Director, our organists and musicians, the youth and adults who read on Good Friday, acolytes and ushers, the Chancel Guild, assisting ministers, deacons, trustees, sound and lighting assistants, our Church Office Secretary, and our Pastor. A heartfelt *THANK YOU* is extended to all!

MORE COUNCIL NEWS

Mutual Ministry: Brian Milek led an exercise in brain-storming, which was intended to help Council begin to focus on the kind of priorities we think are important for Zion. Members of Mutual Ministry have been meeting monthly this year, reviewing how we've functioned, focusing on our mission, setting a schedule for the rest of the year, and looking ahead to updating staff job descriptions in May. The more we know about our vision for the future, the better we can be at supporting our staff and their work.

Caring Ministry: Cathy Harvey was happy to report that our new transitional team overseeing the ministry of Zion's Food Pantry soloed, so to speak, for the first time in April. It's nerve-racking wondering if everything is going to come together in time to serve families that need our help. We are so fortunate to have many friends and members who are willing to serve with the Food Pantry Crew, and more fortunate still to have members (like Jayne Schrader, Beth Willis, and Cathy, too) who are willing to step forward to lead. Our thanks to all!

Bicentennial Task Force: Darlene Milavickas called our first meeting, with Jim Fidler, Susan Heyard, Carol Rossbach, Mary Jo Robbins, Nick Lanzalotta, and Pastor in attendance. Nick and Mary Jo are a part of a small working group with Carol, Darlene, Pastor, and Brian Walters, who are exploring the prospect of replacing the five colored glass windows on the east wall of the Sanctuary with stained or faceted glass as a Bicentennial Project. We will continue to add small working groups to our Bicentennial Task Force as specific projects warrant. We discussed possible dates for the 2014 calendar, fundraising plans, and property projects we'd like to pursue.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

THE 2012 ELECTIONS AT ZION: The date for the May Congregational Meeting has been set for Wednesday, May 23rd. We will begin with dinner, prepared and served by Zion's Church Council, at 6:15 p.m. Our meeting follows in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. Our May 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 member of Church Council, as a Deacon, or Trustee, please let Jim Fidler (President), Brian Milek (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. This is a special time of service at Zion, since we are beginning to shift our focus to plans for Zion's Bicentennial Anniversary.

2012 Northeastern Ohio Synod Assembly is set for Friday and Saturday, June 1-2, at the John S. Knight Center in Akron. This year's theme is *God's Work, Our Hands: On the Journey Forward*. Zion's voting delegates will be Pastor Sherwindt, along with Carl & Susan Geib. The focus of the Assembly deals with nuts-and-bolts business of the Synod. We will conduct elections, approve the budget, make note of roster changes, worship and pray together. The Rev. Craig Settlage, ELCA Director for Mission Support and Mission Advancement, will serve as the Assembly's Guest Speaker and ELCA Representative.

**INVITING ALL WOMEN
(CALLING ALL MEN)**

**OUR TENTH ANNUAL
MOTHER'S DAY
BREAKFAST:**

**SUNDAY, MAY 13TH
BETWEEN THE SERVICES
9:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.**

Oven-Warmed Cinnamon Rolls

Breads of All Sorts

The Best of Juices

The Freshest Fruit

The Finest Coffees

Our Singing Chef's Egg Strata

Our Special Tribute to Moms:

10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Readings by the Youth of Zion



A Treasured Tradition, a Delicious Breakfast, a Treat for All
Created and Designed, Baked and Burnt, by the Men of Zion

MEN OF ZION NEWS

The Men of Zion will meet on the second Wednesday in May to finalize plans for this year's Mother's Day Breakfast. That will be May 9th, at 6:00 p.m., in Luther Hall. All men are invited to join us. Once again, we will have six teams working on our plans for the Mother's Day Breakfast. Dale Jacobs will lead our kitchen team. Bob Lancashire and Howard Dansizen will lead our set-up and clean-up teams. Lorin Beaber and Nick Cignetti will lead our breads team. Brian Milek and Dean Fox will lead our fruit salad team. Brian Kay and Steve Dague will lead our drinks team. We're looking for lots of men to join in the work, and hoping that many women will enjoy the result.

We are also working on a great program for the morning, with readings from our youth, some singing from our men, plus some special music from the Praise Team, with a few anecdotes thrown in for good measure. While the breakfast takes place in Memorial Hall, with extra tables, if needed, in Luther Hall, our Mother's Day Program takes place in the Sanctuary so that we can take advantage of the sound system. Make it a point to join us for both. And don't anyone forget about the beautiful gesture of a single, long-stemmed red rose given to all the women who join us as a gift from the Men of Zion.

In the meantime, we are planning to do a little Spring Cleaning on a Work Day that we've scheduled for the morning of *Saturday, May 5th*. We'll want to clean up the grounds, clean out the gutters, and spread lots and lots of mulch to highlight the flowers so many have planted. We're a little ahead of schedule with this Spring Cleaning Day. So be sure to join us for coffee & donuts, some good fellowship, and a little bit of work at 8:00 a.m. With your help, we hope to be finished by Noon.

TURKEY & ARMENIA IN JUNE

Pastor Sherwindt and Marilyn have booked their airfare, and they are heading to Armenia via Turkey in June. They will leave after worship on Trinity Sunday, and then visit the land where the Nicene Creed was forged way back in 381 CE. The Cappadocian Fathers – Basil the Great, Gregory of Nazianzus, and Gregory of Nyssa – were very instrumental in creating the language of compromise that helped the whole church affirm its unity while so much was changing in the fourth century. Constantine had converted to Christianity in 312 CE. A Church Council at Nicea was called in 325 CE to address issues raised by the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. Basil the Great was born in 329; his friend Gregory of Nazianzus, in 330; his younger brother, Gregory of Nyssa, in 335. As they became mature theologians, they shaped the discussion and forged solutions that were embraced with the Nicene Creed at the Church Council gathered in Constantinople (present-day Istanbul) in 381 CE.

Pastor and Marilyn will land in Istanbul on Monday, June 4. After a couple of days of seeing the sights in Istanbul, they will take a bus ride to Cappadocia, a land of fairy chimneys, cave cities, and Christian history. The geology is fascinating, inviting hot-air balloon rides to enjoy the views from overhead, and tours into cave cities to see this world that Christians built to protect themselves during times of religious persecution. From there, it will be a flight to Tbilisi in Georgia, because the border between Turkey and Armenia is closed, a cab ride to Yerevan, where they will meet Austin and tour Armenia for a week. In terms of religious history, Armenia is the oldest of the organized Eastern Orthodox communions, dating back to 301 CE when Armenia formally adopted the Christian religion as its own.

OUR LITURGICAL PAINTINGS

Carol Rossbach, Zion's resident artist, has contributed an impressive collection of liturgical paintings to Zion over the last few years. Some of these paintings are seasonal, like Advent's embrace of Candles and Trumpets, celebrations of Christ's Birth, Christmas Joy, and the Epiphany Star. Some are sacramental, depicting Holy Communion, Baptism, God's Word, New Life, and Prayer. Some lift up festivals like Pentecost (Tongues of Fire), Holy Trinity (Triangle & Trefoil), Reformation (Luther's Seal), and Christ the King (Crown and Acclamations).

Lent and Holy Week are now the focus of six paintings: the Gate & Palms of Palm Sunday, the Bread and the Cup of Maundy Thursday, the Cross and Crown of Thorns of Good Friday, the Empty Tomb, and the Cross and Lilies of Easter. On pages eight and nine of this month's newsletter, we introduce the meaning to Carol's newest paintings, one that focuses on the struggle with temptation that begins our Lenten journey, and another that directs our focus to what sustains us along the way, the Lord's Supper of Holy Communion.

The Name of Jesus Christ is carved into a Blood Red Cross, inviting our trust that the forty days of Lent will ultimately lead to the promise of salvation. Carol's newest addition to this growing collection captures the *Last Supper on Maundy Thursday* with the Bread that was broken, the Wine that was poured, and the Cup that we share as we remember the words Jesus spoke and the life He gave to reveal the connection between the depth of God's love and the life of God's people. These two paintings are complemented with the message of the Cross, first in the darkness of Good Friday, and then with the victory of Resurrection proclaimed on Easter.

GREAT NEWS FROM ZION'S SUNDAY SCHOOL



Happy Birthday to:

UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Mother's Day, May 13th: Zion's Mother's Day Breakfast during the Sunday School Hour

Mother's Day, May 13th: Special Program for Mothers from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, May 27th: The Festival of Pentecost, and we invite everyone to wear red ... again!

Sunday, June 3rd: The Last Sunday of the 2011-12 Sunday School Year: Let's have fun!

July 16 through 20: Vacation Bible School, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Monday through Friday

Sunday, September 2: Make our *End of the Summer Party* your plans for Labor Day Weekend

Sunday, September 9: Rally Day and the Start-up of the 2012-13 Sunday School year at Zion

Sunday, September 16: Sunday School Classes for All Ages are officially in session again!

PRE-KINDERGARTEN THRU THE SIXTH GRADE

During May and the first Sunday in June the children will finish up their classroom studies for this year's Sunday School program. There will be no Sunday School on Mother's Day, which is May 13th, because we will all be enjoying the wonderful Mother's Day Breakfast with our families hosted by the Men of Zion. This is such a wonderful tradition at Zion to celebrate our mothers. Of course, our children will be participating in our special Mother's Day Program, which is also a wonderful tradition here at Zion.

Sunday, June 3rd, will be our last day of class for the 2011-12 Sunday School Year. We will have a fun celebration that day to mark the end of a great year of lessons and activities. We will once again take a break from Sunday School this summer. We will start up again in September, when we kick off the Sunday School year with Rally Day on Sunday, September 9, 2012; and classes will begin again on Sunday, September 16th. We are already looking into some new programs and curriculum and are very excited about next year's program!

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR A GREAT EASTER EGG HUNT!

A big **thank you** is extended to all of the families who donated candy for the Easter Egg Hunt. We were able to fill over 600 eggs this year for our children! **Thank you** to the Confirmation and High School classes for filling all those eggs. The Easter Egg Hunt was a great outdoor adventure this year, thanks to the good weather, along with the help of a couple of traditional "spots" for locating our many treats inside the church.

Thank you to Janet Slease, Sunday School staff and helpers, the Confirmation class, and the High School class for hiding the eggs, as well as for helping the younger kids during the Easter Egg Hunt. We extend a special **thank you** to Mr. John Parkomaki for finding all of those tough eggs outside that went undiscovered by the children; and **thank you** to all of the parents for helping out in many ways, turning a wonderfully glorious festival into a great day for all who joined us!



OUR LENT AND MAUNDY THURSDAY LITURGICAL PAINTINGS

(Designs and Explanations by Carol Rossbach)



LENT – THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST:

The name of Jesus Christ is set on a cross. The letters of the name are white, a color that is used to symbolize purity. The color of the cross is red because our Lord's blood was shed for us. Between the arms of the cross we see forty divisions, which symbolize the forty days of fasting in preparation for our Lord's triumph over Satan during his struggle with temptation in the wilderness. Thus, our Lenten journey begins with our remembering how God's call through Baptism thrust Jesus into the wilderness for a time of testing and trusting. The tempter tries to distract us from following the will of God by inviting us to question God's Word. Our Lord reminds us that it is better to trust God's Word

than to follow the devil's efforts to mislead by turning trust to doubt, and faith to fear. Trusting God leads to life. Following the devil leads through darkness to death. The rays of light are also a Lenten symbol, and for that reason are purple. Surrounding the cross is a circle of gold, which signifies perfection in eternity, set on a purple background, the color for Lent.

MAUNDY THURSDAY — HOLY COMMUNION: This painting represents the Lord's Last Supper. As we are told in Mark 14:22-24, "While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them and said, 'Take; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly, I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.'" Notice the essential elements: the bread, the cup, stalks of wheat, the fruit of the vine. The stalks of wheat and the bunch of grapes remind us that while we stand alone as individuals in larger groups and massive fields, through the cup that we share, we are the one loaf, that is, one body in Christ. This unity is a miracle that is God's doing. As the body of Christ, we are the gift of God's new creation.



OUR GOOD FRIDAY AND EASTER LITURGICAL PAINTINGS

(Designs and Explanations by Carol Rossbach)

GOOD FRIDAY – CROSS WITH THORNS: The cross is, without questions, the most well-known symbol of Christianity. It is at the heart of Lent and Holy Week as we fix our focus on the central event in the history of salvation, the death of Christ on the cross. The cross is combined with a crown of thorns as classic symbols of Jesus' suffering. We cannot be certain which of the various species of briars, thistles or thorny plants were selected for the mock crown placed on Jesus' head. But apart from their use as a fuel or as protective hedges, like thistles of today they were nasty weeds. The crown of thorns worn by Jesus as he walked the *Via Dolorosa*, the way of suffering leading to death, stands in stark contrast to the green laurel crowns that were used in athletic games, the crown of roses worn by emperors, and crowns adorned with precious metals worn by both royalty and wealthy citizens. Jesus chose instead to be numbered among transgressors as he gave his life for ours on the cross.



EASTER SYMBOL – CROSS & LILIES: When his opponents in Corinth stressed a theology of power and glory, Paul spoke these powerful words: “The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.... Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a scandal to Jews and foolishness to Greeks, but to those who are called, Christ crucified is the power of God and the wisdom of



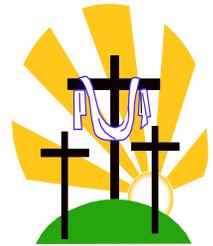
God.” (1st Cor. 1:18, 22-24). The centrality of the cross is reflected in this symbol, where the cross stands empty, reflecting the victory of the resurrection. The rays of the rising sun in the background signal that it was on the morning of the third day that Christ arose. Our painting includes lilies, biblical reminders of Jesus' teachings, along with his suffering and his victory over the grave. Often called the *white-robed apostles of hope*, lilies were said to be found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane after Christ's agony. Tradition has it that beautiful white lilies sprung up where drops of Christ's sweat fell to the ground in his final hours of sorrow and deep distress. Churches continue to honor this tradition at Easter by banking their altars and surrounding their crosses with Easter lilies, to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and our hope for life everlasting.

MORE GOOD NEWS FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT ZION

THE CHILDREN'S EASTER PROGRAM: A BANNER EASTER!

We hope everyone enjoyed this year's Easter program on Palm Sunday. The children, as always, did a fantastic job! They showed us how each letter of **EASTER** adds such important meaning to the Easter Story. With the use of scripture and great banners representing some very important words, they spelled out **EASTER** in a very symbolic way: **E** stood for Empty Tomb; **A** for Arisen; **S** for Savior; **T** for Triumph; **E** for Everlasting Life; and **R** for Resurrection! All of this reminded us of the Good News that after dying for our sins, Jesus rose and triumphed over death, promising us the gift of everlasting life!

We want to thank the children for all of their hard work and dedication to practicing and performing the program. They are a lively and enthusiastic group that we always enjoy working with! We had a great rehearsal, and the program went off without a hitch! Thank you to the parents for sharing their kids and being flexible with our schedule. A big thank you to everyone – Connie Riffle, Janet Slease, Tina Beaber, Connie Frank, Laura Thompson, Sharon Stout, Nicole Milek, Beth Willis, Kelly Walters, and Jacob & Emma Parkomaki – who helped with this year's program, from practices, to props, to snacks & treats, and rehearsals.



We have a great group of volunteers who are always willing to pitch in! Finally, thank you to Suzanne Walters for her musical accompaniment, to Brian Walters for his help with the sound system and props, and to the Praise Team for their help with setting up and taking down all the props that form our set for our children's program. It takes lots and lots of people to make our programs a success and we truly appreciate everyone's help and support!

WE'VE GOT A DATE (BUT NO THEME) FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

Mark your calendars! Vacation Bible School is scheduled for the week of **July 16 through 20, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** VBS is designed for children age 5 through those who have finished 5th grade. We are still working on this year's theme, along with all of the week's great activities. Look for more information next month! As always, we are in great need of volunteers to lead our classes and activities, in addition to the many other volunteers that we need to make our VBS a success. If you are interested, please contact Debbie Fox at 330-966-2433. If you are not able to volunteer during week of VBS, there are still many other ways to help. In June, we will put out donation cans for cash, and sign-up sheets for food and supplies needed for the week. Please watch the weekly News Page in the bulletin for work days when you can help us with prep work for VBS. We truly appreciate the support Zion's family always gives for this great event!

WE'VE GOT A DATE FOR THE CRAFT SHOW, AND REGISTRATIONS, TOO!

The **Youth Missions Craft Show & Oktoberfest** is on the calendar for **Saturday, October 20th**, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Based on last year's success, we are looking forward to renting more than 70 craft tables. If you know of crafters who might want to rent a table at our Craft Show, give us a call, or check out our website for all the latest information on what will be our **Ninth Annual Youth Missions Craft Show & Oktoberfest**, set for **Saturday, October 20th**.

LUTHERAN SCHOLARSHIPS

Local Scholarship for \$2,000.00: We are thankful to Miss Joan Cogan for bringing to our attention news of an annual scholarship that is offered in memory of Joanne Flad and Nancy Grandjean Elliot by their families. Members from Zion who are graduating from high school this spring and heading to college in the fall are invited to apply. The selection committee is looking for an above average student, but not necessarily the student with the highest grade point average. Faith and character are a big part of what this scholarship celebrates. Active involvement in the life of the church goes hand-in-hand with the values we hold and the goals we pursue. Your interest is encouraged. Applications are available at the Church Office. Now is the best time to apply, with June 1st serving as the cut-off date for consideration.

For Your Information, just in case you have forgotten, our own congregation offers a \$500.00 scholarship for any and all members who choose to attend any one of our Lutheran universities. Members from Zion who have attended Capital University have found that the Lutheran Foundation at Capital matches this \$500 with \$500 of their own, reducing tuition expenses by a total of \$1,000 annually.

The ELCA Malaria Campaign: We did it! We met and exceeded our three-year goal of raising \$2,250 to help end malaria now with our can for coins on April 29th, deemed World Malaria Day by the ELCA and our Northeastern Ohio Synod. Vacation Bible School got us started last July with \$1,655.20. For that, we say thanks. Then, members continued to give, and we made it to \$2,000 by year's end. For that, we say thanks. Finally, on April 29th, members and friends put us over the top with almost \$400 of additional giving; and again, we say thank you very much.

THAT'S WHAT MOMS DO

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you hang my first painting on the refrigerator, and I immediately wanted to paint another one.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you feed a stray cat, and I learned that it was good to be kind to animals.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you make my favorite cake for me, and I learned that the little things can be the special things in life.

When you thought I wasn't looking I heard you say a prayer, and I knew that there is a God I could always talk to, and I learned to trust in Him.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you make a meal and take it to a friend who was sick, and I learned that we all have to help take care of each other.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you give of your time and money to help people who had nothing, and I learned that those who have something should give to those who don't.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw how you handled your responsibilities, even when you didn't feel good, and I learned that I'd have to be responsible when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw tears come from your eyes, and I learned that sometimes things hurt, but it's all right to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw that you cared, and I wanted to be everything that I could be.

When you thought I wasn't looking I learned most of life's lessons that I need to know to be a good and productive person when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn't looking I looked at you and wanted to say, Thanks for all the things I saw when you thought I wasn't looking.

Author - Unknown

THE WOMEN OF ZION

To Follow and Serve: the Gospel of Mark, Session 9: “I know that my Redeemer lives! What comfort this sweet sentence gives.” That familiar hymn provides the theme for our May Bible study. Our theme verse is Mark 16:6: “*Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth. He has been raised from the dead. He is not here.*” Then, the women are given the key to the life of a disciple. In the Gospel of John, the road to discipleship begins with the invitation, “*Come and see.*” In the Gospel of Mark, the road is now paved with the command, “*Go and tell.*” You are invited to join the Women of Zion in their monthly Bible study as they bring their year-long study of the Gospel of Mark to a close. Join them on **Tuesday, May 15th**, at 9:30 a.m. in the Resource Center.

Zion’s Comfort Givers meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, which will be May 10 & 24, at 9:30 a.m. in Luther Hall. You are invited to join us. Our group has been growing, and you’ll be surprised by how comfortable it can be and how much fun it will be to sew with us.

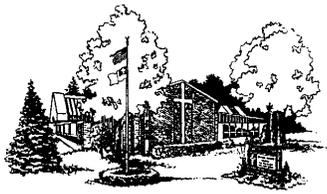
April in Paris at Israel’s Lutheran Church in Paris, Ohio provided a great setting for the Canton-Massillon Cluster Spring Gathering. Flowers were everywhere; the cuisine was delicious; and Zion was well represented with Betty Tracy, Joyce Gibeaut, Carol Rossbach, Mabel Kolarik, Kay Davis, Helen Heller, and Ruth Elsass taking the time to enjoy a great April day in Paris. Tim Muse, the Pastor at St. Paul’s in Alliance, led the Bible study. Host Pastor Sue Rodgers led devotions. The Intern at St. Paul’s, Rhonda Gallagher, led the celebration of thanks for the in-kind and in-cash offerings that would be used to assist the local food pantry in Paris and residents of St. Luke Lutheran Community.

THANK YOU’S AND MORE

The meaning of the word **MOTHER**:

M is for the million things she gave me,
O means that she’s never growing old,
T is for the tears she shed to save me,
H is for her heart of purest gold;
E is for her eyes, with love-light shining,
R means right, and right she’ll always be,
 Put them all together, they spell **MOTHER**,
 A word that means the world to me.

We extend our congregational sympathies to the family of Gladys Miller, who at the age of 96 was called to her heavenly home on Sunday, April 22nd. She has spent the last decade with her son and his family in Massillon, and then at Brewster Place in Brewster. She was a gifted artist, a loving friend, an active member for many years, and a beautiful person her whole life long.



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

349 Lindy Lane Ave NW
North Canton, OH 44720

The Rev. Mark Sherwindt
Senior Pastor

Jayne Schrader,
Church Secretary

James Fidler,
Zion's President

Suzanne Walters,
Praise Team Leader

Frederick Locker,
Senior Choir Director

Miriam Keating,
Nursery Supervisor

Tim Himbaugh,
Church Custodian

Our Sunday Morning Schedule
8:00 a.m. Traditional Service
9:15 a.m. Our Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Contemporary Blend

The Church Office Is Open
Monday through Friday
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Office: 330-499-3909
Office: 330-499-3913

*“Growing in Love
and Service
by Grace”
from 1814
to the Present*

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AT ZION WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 2012

Dear Family of Zion:

This is a reminder of our Congregational Meeting on *Wednesday, May 23, 2012*, which begins with a dinner in Memorial Hall at 6:15 p.m. Current members of the Church Council will host and serve the dinner. Our meeting will follow in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. This is a great time for fellowship with your family at Zion.

Our Spring Meeting typically focuses on the election of members to serve with Church Council, the Deacons and Trustees. This year's May meeting will remain on that track. We have moved it to the fourth Wednesday, May 23rd, to avoid any conflicts with Memorial Day Weekend.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order, Opening Hymn, and Opening Prayer
2. Finalizing Nominations, and Voting for Candidates
3. Expressions of Gratitude for those who have served
4. The Lord's Prayer, our Dismissal and Adjournment

Please plan on attending the Congregational Meeting; and join us for the wonderful meal beforehand. I believe you will find pleasure in both!

This is a great time to show your support for Zion. I look forward to seeing you at our meeting. That's *Wednesday, May 23*, beginning with dinner at 6:15 p.m.

God's peace be with you,
James Fidler
Church Council President

CONGREGATIONAL DINNER, 6:15 PM
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, 7:00 PM

NEWS FROM ZION'S FOOD PANTRY & CLOTHING CLOSET

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On Thursday, April 26, Beth Willis and I traveled to Akron for an orientation workshop at the Akron Canton Regional Food Bank. I knew the orientation was from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 pm., but couldn't imagine what could possibly take six hours. We soon found out, and we are thankful for all that we learned!

About fifteen other people were in attendance, representing food pantries from all over the area. There was a group from Medina that is just starting a food pantry at their church. Some of the others present were new to the Akron Canton Regional Food Bank. Some, like Beth and me, were new to working with the food pantry at their church. Everyone was given a handbook as we began the workshop, and we spent the morning learning all the ins and outs of running a food pantry and working with the ACRFB, which, for all you insiders out there, stands for the **Akron Canton Regional Food Bank**.

We learned about storage & handling guidelines for all the items in the pantry, how to order food from the Food Bank, where it comes from, how to submit the monthly statistical report, monitoring and inspections of our site by the Food Bank, and what they need us to do so that everything is running the way it should. This was a lot of information and we knew that after lunch, we would be receiving the Civil Rights and Food Safety training.

After lunch and a tour of the facility, we went back to our "classroom" and spent the rest of the afternoon learning about Civil Right and Food Safety. Then, we had to take a test. Most of what was on the test was common sense and things we have learned along life's way. Respecting Civil Rights often involves treating our clients like we would want to be treated. Maintaining Food Safety is mostly about making sure that the food we give out is something that we would want to eat, food that has been properly stored and is safe to eat.

Since we have a new team of pantry directors, Beth Willis and I, along with Cathy Harvey, are the ones who will present this course on Civil Rights to our volunteers. We will also go over basic rules for Food Safety to our Food Pantry Crew. We're not yet experts, but with all of you, we care about serving our Lord faithfully and doing our best to reinforce the simple rules we have in place for taking a bite out of hunger. We are committed to caring about the food we distribute, the people we serve, and the friends who join us on the first and third Tuesdays for a wonderful day of volunteer service. Thanks for caring, and thanks for helping.

God's blessings,
Jayne Schrader

Growing in Love and Service by Grace

