

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR:

With the arrival of June, my thoughts are focused on traveling to Turkey and Armenia. Marilyn and I leave after worship on Trinity Sunday, which is June 3rd. We fly out of Cleveland, land in New York, enjoy some crosstown traffic from LaGuardia to JFK, and then touch down in London to take off for Istanbul. By late afternoon on Monday, June 4th, we'll be taking in the sights and sounds of a culture that has grown increasingly important as a bridge between the West and Middle East, with historic connections with ancient Christianity, and even pre-historic remnants of what could be Noah's Ark under ice on Mt. Ararat. We'll be far away from Noah's Ark as we walk the busy streets of Istanbul and float peacefully above the landscape of fairy chimneys on a hot air balloon in Cappadocia. But we will be able to see Mt. Ararat when Austin shows us where he's been living and working these past two years with his Peace Corps assignment in Goris, Armenia.

To get there, we will take a plane from Istanbul to Tblisi, Georgia. The border between Turkey and Armenia is closed as they dispute Turkey's role in what Armenia considers a "genocide" against its people in the opening decades of the 20th century. (In 1915, the Ottoman Empire began what has subsequently been described as the systematic elimination of 1 to 1½ million Armenians from what is called Anatolian Turkey. It is now widely known to have been the first modern genocide, giving rise to the very term *genocide*, representing the loss of 35% of the total population of Armenians at that time.) Austin has arranged for a cab to pick us up at the airport in Tblisi, as we drive across the border to the capital of Armenia, which is Yerevan. After a night at the Marriott in the center of Yerevan, we will continue on to Goris, which is tucked away in the southeastern corner of Armenia, with Iran to the south, Azerbaijan to the east, and Mt. Ararat in Turkey to the west.

After six days with Austin, we will repeat the 5½ hour cab ride from Yerevan to Tblisi, fly back to Istanbul, and return to London, where we will enjoy a musical in London's West End, and a tour of some of London's 2012 Olympic sites. From there it is back to the United States via New York to Cleveland. During that 17-day whirlwind tour, we will have enjoyed the ancient wonders of Constantinople, the city renamed after the Roman Emperor Constantine, whose conversion changed the trajectory of Christianity; and we will have walked in the footsteps of the Cappadocian Fathers, whose words are read on Festival Sundays when we recite our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed; and we will have visited a country, which was the first in history to accept Christianity as the official religion of the land, giving birth to the church of Armenia Orthodoxy in 301 CE.

The blue mosque in Istanbul, the fairy chimneys and cave cities of Cappadocia, the roots of Eastern Orthodoxy in Armenia: Marilyn and I are looking forward to endless encounters with the history that helped to make us who we are. Sure, with many of you, our roots are northern European; but the Christianity that shaped our nation, and our European heritage, followed a course through history that found its way from the Holy Land through the incredible conversion of Constantine in 312 CE, who commissioned Basil the Great, Gregory of Nyssa, and Gregory of Nazianzus to hammer out the language of the Nicene Creed (from 325 to 381 CE), which stands as a lasting testimony to the transformation of a church that changed the world.

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

Our May meeting continued the pattern of strong attendance: Jim Fidler, Juanita Cignetti, Dave Palumbo, Cathy Harvey, Mark Votaw, Vicki Givler, Dale Jacobs, Beth Shaheen, Lorin Beaber, Renee Keith, and Pastor Sherwindt. Our primary business involved preparing for our Congregational Meeting, which was set for Wednesday, May 23, when we will be electing Council members, Deacons, and Trustees.

In his Treasurer’s Report Dave Palumbo provided more great news about our giving this year, as 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. Our year-to-date budget surplus provides powerful evidence of your support for the life of our congregation and the mission of our church.

ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS FOR APRIL

April Income	23,586.93
April Expenses	<u>22,248.64</u>
April Surplus	1,338.29
Income through April	90,165.65
Expenses thru April	<u>85,874.78</u>
2012 YTD Surplus	4,290.87
2011 YTD (Deficit)	(7,216.58)

What a change from one year to the next! We’ve enjoyed a turnaround of \$11,507.⁴⁵. In addition to our operating budget surplus, we have also enjoyed generous support for benevolence: locally with the Food Pantry, globally with contributions for the ELCA Malaria Campaign, and churchwide with our gifts to the Northeastern Ohio Synod.

Thank you for your generous support!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

2012 Elections at Zion: The evening of Wednesday, May 23, began with a light but delicious dinner in Memorial Hall. Sub sandwiches, turkey and Italian, with chips and coleslaw got the evening off to a great start. We thank Dale Jacobs, Dave Palumbo, and the entire Council for their efforts. Jim Fidler called our meeting to order at 7 p.m. Marilyn Espe-Sherwindt accompanied our opening song. Pastor Sherwindt led us in prayer. Then we took some time to thank Jim, Mark Votaw, Bob Lancashire, John Rhodes, Donna Roan, Darlene Milavickas, and Nick Lanzalotta 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. Lorin Beaber was on the ballot for President, Juanita Cignetti for Council Secretary, Beth Shaheen as Resource Ministry Elder, Vicki Givler as Parish Life Ministry Elder, Beth Willis as Social Outreach Ministry Elder, and Valerie Cizek as Witness Ministry Elder; Adam Schrader, Todd Elsass, and Betty Boettler were on the ballot as Trustees; Scott Gross, Brian Kay, Rob Frock, and Randy Cizek look forward to their service as Deacons. We thank them for their willingness to step forward upon hearing God’s call and ours.

The congregation showed their appreciation for Jim Fidler’s leadership by meeting the need for a quorum with great attendance. We finished our business in record time so that the choir could begin their Wednesday rehearsal right on time. Our slate of candidates for service was received with heartfelt acclaim and resounding unanimity.

MORE COUNCIL NEWS

Mutual Ministry: While our Vice President, Brian Milek, was not present to offer a report, on his behalf Lorin Beaber and Renee Keith invited Council members to prioritize areas of need for future attention. Youth and families ministries claimed the first spot, with planning for special events coming in second. No immediate action was asked or invited. It mostly set the stage for future discussions.

Caring Ministry: Cathy Harvey continues to express appreciation for the leadership that Jayne Schrader and Beth Willis are offering in our desire to maintain the high level of service that our Food Pantry and Clothing Closet provide. There is a lot that goes into attending to all the details of these ministries; and we hope that mutual support joins our volunteers and leaders in this common effort.

Property Ministry: We enjoyed a great work day on May 5th, with a lot of mulch spread and a good group of volunteers to spread it. We will host a youth group from Illinois the week of June 11-15, with plans for a week of volunteer service with Habitat for Humanity. Basically, all is well with our property thanks to the many members who lend their helping hand. The parsonage remains on our radar as we look to finish some plastering inside.

Zion's Bicentennial Task Force: We are making progress in looking into the possibility of replacing the colored glass on the east side of the Sanctuary with faceted glass. We also talked about exploring the prospects of participating in an Internship Program as we look ahead to our bicentennial celebration. We recognize the need to fix dates on the calendar, invite special guests, begin the process of collecting memories and decide the best medium we can use to both preserve and share them. We've got lots to do.

HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY

Come, join the dance is the choral anthem for the Festival of Holy Trinity Sunday. The Senior Choir will end their season on a festive note with a farewell performance at both services on June 3rd. Two anthems are featured – *Come, Join the Dance of Trinity* and, of course, the sevenfold Amen of *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* – along with great hymns like *Holy, Holy, Holy*, and newer favorites, just as great, like *You Are Holy*.

Trinity serves as the transition from **Sacred Time** to **Ordinary Time** in the church year. 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. 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 turns to various aspects of our faith. 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 year, 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 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. That, my friends, is the distinction between *Sacred Time* and *Ordinary Time*.

LUTHERANS IN ACTION

The ELCA Malaria Campaign has a three-year \$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. The Northeastern Ohio Synod, which is one of 65 synods in the ELCA, set a goal of raising \$250,000. Zion was asked to raise \$2,250 over three years, and in less than one year we exceeded that goal by raising a total of \$2,600.00! For that, we thank all of you.

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. 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. The goal of this program is clear: to wipe out malaria through the distribution of chemically-treated mosquito nets, the use of modern medicines, and targeted programs in education for both communities and families.

Pastor Sherwindt, and Carl & Susan Geib will attend our Synod's Assembly at the John S. Knight Center in Akron, June 1—2, where we will receive the latest update about the progress we're making in reaching our goal. At last count, we had raised over \$168,000! The Assembly theme is *God's Work, Our Hands: On the Journey Forward*.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

On Saturday, May 12, Cathy Harvey and her nephew, Seth Roan, Beth and her son, AJ, my son, Adam, and I met at the North Canton Post Office at 3:15 p.m. to pick up the non-perishable food items that were collected through their annual Postal Drive. Within a half hour, Adam's pick-up truck, Beth's SUV, and Cathy's, too, were full and we headed back to the church to unload. We filled ten grocery carts full of canned goods, boxed food items, and toiletries, all of which were donated by the generous people in our community for area food pantries. Being new to this, we didn't know what to expect. We're so thankful for all of the items we received.

On Tuesday, May 15, we met in Luther Hall at 9:00 a.m. to have our annual Civil Rights & Food Safety training. Thank you to all of the Food Pantry & Clothing Closet volunteers who took part in this training. Also, thanks to the Men of Zion, we had delicious cinnamon rolls and orange juice, which were left over from the Mother's Day breakfast that Sunday.

After the training, Pantry Crew members dug into sorting and checking the expiration dates on all of the items we received through the Postal Drive, and we stocked the shelves in the food pantry. Other Pantry Crew members began their usual day of setting food items on the tables in the gym for the families we serve when we open our doors to those who need the food we're able to provide.

On a personal note, when we open our doors for service, I sit behind a table in the gym, collect the required paper work, and greet everyone. I've been trying to learn the names of those we serve so I can greet them personally. As they greet me back, they're all so friendly, and I sense such gratitude from them for what we're doing to help feed neighbors in need.

GREAT NEWS FROM ZION'S SUNDAY SCHOOL



Happy Birthday to:

UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Sunday, June 3: The last day of the 2011-2012 Sunday School Year: Party at 9:15 a.m.

July 16 through 20: Vacation Bible School (no theme yet) with Registration at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, September 2: It's time for the End-of-the-Summer Party: Labor Day Weekend

Sunday, September 9: This is a big day for America and a Big Day at Zion: Rally Day

Sunday, September 16: Classes for the New Sunday School Year Begin Today at Zion

SUNDAY SCHOOL: PRE-K THROUGH SIXTH GRADE

Sunday, June 3rd, will wrap up this Sunday School Year! We have a day of celebration planned during the Sunday School hour, with food, fun, and games to celebrate a great year of lessons, an awesome Christmas Program and Easter Program, and a lot of important learning about God's Word.

Thank you to our Sunday School teachers and staff this year, too. They have done another great job this year! We truly do appreciate their 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.

As we've done the last couple of years, we will be taking a break this summer from Sunday School. *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 9th, 2012, and classes will start up again on Sunday, September 16th.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: CONFIRMATION AND THE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS

We would like to thank Renee Keith for teaching the Catechism class this year. As always, she did a great job and received very high praise from the kids and thanks from the Pastor for inspiring an interest in learning about our Lutheran church and engagement in growing in love and service by grace!



Also, thank you to our High School Sunday School leader, Tina Beaber. We very much appreciate her support for our kids and dedication. The year was filled with great service projects and lessons that inspired interest and discussions that were very important to our High Schoolers' spiritual growth as members of Zion.

We congratulate this year's graduating seniors – Brooke Roman and Kelly Walters. We have enjoyed watching Brooke and Kelly grow into remarkable young ladies and we wish them the best of luck with their future plans!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: JULY 16 — 20

While we don't yet know what our theme and curriculum will be for Vacation Bible School, we do know what to expect. You can plan on joining us Monday through Friday, July 16th - 20th, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be great lessons, music, games, food, crafts and service projects of course. It will be a week of fun, learning and friendship! We are still in the process of ironing out all of the details for this year's theme, so stay tuned for more information!



Vacation Bible School is a program 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 11th. Please turn in your completed forms by **Wednesday, July 11th**, 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 will have a busy week as usual! We'll get started on Monday with lots of fun and activities! We hope to have special guests this year, and Tuesday is a day for that. 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., when everyone is invited to join us for an evening that features a VBS Program in the Sanctuary and an Ice Cream Social in Memorial Hall. Plan on our annual *Quilt Raffle* that evening, too. Friday will be our *End of the Week 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! Of course, don't forget our daily lessons, crafts, music, games, service projects and lunch!

We may not have a theme, but we know enough to invite you to look forward to a great week for our kids, staff and parents, as we all learn about God and his amazing love for us! Plus, all of you know that 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'd 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. Last year's recipient was the Church-wide effort to *End Malaria Now*. Every forty-five seconds a child dies of malaria. Each death is doubly tragic because malaria is preventable and treatable. The kids at Vacation Bible School helped to kick off our year-long campaign with donations that totaled \$827.60! The adults at Zion matched that amount; and then, between Christmas giving and our Easter faith, Zion wound up raising a total to \$2,600!

We're looking forward to a great week for kids, staff, and parents. We are always in need of volunteers. You are qualified to volunteer: we guarantee it! Consider joining us one, two, or all five days. It is rewarding and enjoyable, and you'll be working with a great group of kids! We'll have sign-up sheets and donation cans for those 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).

SERVICE IS ALWAYS THE KEY TO VBS AT ZION

SERVICE at VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – We will again focus on service this year, a great tradition at Zion’s VBS. We have planned many of the traditional service projects that are always a big hit and a big help to those in need. The children will experience how important and rewarding it is to serve God and others! We hope they will see that no matter how old you are, you can truly make a difference! The following is a summary of this year’s projects:

THE OFFERING – There will be a contest each day between the boys and girls to collect change as our offering. Each team will have a jar and the most money collected wins! This money will then be donated to Zion’s Food Pantry. Since Jayne Schrader, our Church Office Secretary, is helping to lead our Food Pantry ministry, along with Council members Beth Willis and Cathy Harvey, we will have special guests on site all week long!

OUR FOOD PANTRY – We ask that each child bring in a food item each day, if possible. This food will help stock Zion’s Food Pantry, which has been about the ministry of helping many families in the community for going on nine years. With unemployment still a problem and gas prices sky high, there has never been as great a need for this ministry as right now.

QUILT SQUARES – The children will once again create quilt squares for Zion’s Quilters, who will then sew quilts for Lutheran World Relief, which distributes these quilts all over the world. We will raffle one of the quilts, to be chosen by the winner, on Thursday evening at our Ice Cream Social. Tickets will be available during the week. As usual, it’s one ticket for a dollar, and six tickets for five dollars. Join us for all the fun!

DAILY PROJECTS – The children will work on a service project each day during the week. We interact with the seniors at Senior Independence, makes gifts for seniors at St. Luke’s Lutheran Community, decorate bags for the families we serve through our Food Pantry, pray for the children of those families, and thank God for all the opportunities we are given as we grow in love and service by grace.

SCHOOL KITS – Once again, we will be collecting items for school kits because this really does help children in our community. Items needed are backpacks, paper, notebooks, folders, binders, glue, pencils, erasers, crayons, scissors, rulers and markers. Please bring in any donations by Wednesday, July 18th. If anyone in the congregation is interested in donating items, join in by leaving your donated items in the Church Office.

Please keep in mind that WE ARE STILL IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS – especially teachers and teacher assistants! If you would like to volunteer, call Debbie Fox at 330-966-2433, or Jayne Schrader at 330-499-3909. As always, we thank you for your great support.

The wide reach of Zion’s family never ceases to amaze and surprise us with all we give for this great event, and we look forward to your joining in the fun! That’ll be Monday through Friday, July 16–20, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., with lunch included! How can that not be great!

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. For the tenth year running, it was another great morning! As usual, the menu was world class; the service was filled with love; and the event was a huge success. Our thanks, of course, to the kitchen crew, our drinks team, the fruit salad team, the rolls & bread crew, all who served, and everyone who cleaned.

While the Mother's Day Breakfast was an opportunity for Zion's men to regroup and host what has become a wonderful tradition at Zion, with great support this year that included almost 50 men and 20 youth, we're not quite adequately organized at present to think about our *Prime Rib Dinner*. The traditional date in June wrapped around Father's Day may have to wait until later this summer.

In the meantime, we'd like to thank all the folks who joined us for a great **outdoor work day on May 5th**. We had lots of mulch to spread, and lots of members who helped us. Our thanks to Lorin and Jaret Beaber, Randy and Valerie Cizek, Verle and Ruth Elsass, Carl Geib, Audrey Hartman, Bob Lancashire, Brian Milek, Jayne Schrader, Faye Shankle, Pastor Sherwindt, Chris Thomas, Laura and Christopher Thompson, Gail Vogt, and Dan Wilson. We couldn't have done it without them, and thank God we didn't have to.

Dear Men of Zion,

Thank you to the Men of Zion for another delicious breakfast on Mother's Day; and Dale, you done good.

*God's blessings,
Helen Ballentine*

THE WOMEN OF ZION

The Women of Zion have changed course, and are now traveling with Jacob as we read about his many adventures in the Bible. Jacob is known for his cutting corners, and finding ways to take advantage of his older brother Esau. Our lesson touches on chapters 27 through 33 in the Book of Genesis: Jacob leaves home, hears God's promise, wrestles with God, reconciles with Esau, and moves the story of salvation on to the next chapter. You will be surprised how entertaining (and funny) these Old Testament stories can be. Feel free to join us as we meet on the third Tuesday, June 19th, in the Resource Center at 9:30 a.m. That's **June 19th, at 9:30 a.m. in the Resource Center**. See you there!

Zion's Comfort Givers meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, **June 14th and 28th**. We meet in Luther Hall and begin at 9:30 a.m. 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 12th**, in Luther Hall, beginning at 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$11.00. Shirley Cary and Edna Smith are our hostesses. Our menu looks delicious. Please let Shirley Cary know by Sunday, June 3rd, if you are interested in attending.

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

IN LOVING MEMORY

For several years after Senior Independence began their ministry of providing services for seniors using our facility at Zion, they hosted adults with disabilities served by the Whipple-Dale Centre Workshop Monday through Friday. Dick Findlay is a part of that group. So was Sarah Jane McNamee, who came to love Zion, Chuck Danner, and Ruth Elsass. Ruth faithfully delivered tapes of Pastor's sermons to Sarah, apparently, I'm told, to help her sleep at night. Late in April, on the 28th, following weeks of complications after by-pass surgery, Sarah Jane McNamee was called to her heavenly home at the age of 68.

We have come to expect nothing but non-stop miracles from a world of medical science that has made open heart surgery almost routine. In Sarah's case, as with so many others, we are reminded of life's limits, both in terms of our body's limited resiliency and our doctor's limits to cure. Both life and death remind us of our limits. However full our lives may be because of our Lord's promise that he came that we may have life in all its abundance (John 10:10), the curse of mortality remains a force that resurrection alone can remedy.

The Good News of Easter is that Jesus is the first-born of the dead (1st Corinthians 15:20), signaling the death of death, and promising the victory of resurrection for all who believe. We take heart in knowing that Sarah's life was filled with love – God's love and ours for her, along with her love for God and us in return. We rejoice in our Lord's triumph over all that resists God's original intention with the blessing of creation, and what is more, we look forward to the reunion that awaits us in heaven, when God's hope for the world and our trust in God's goodness find a perfect fit in the joy of God's presence and the gift of everlasting life.

MORE ZION NEWS

We extend our thanks to the many members of Zion who contributed red geraniums to beautify our Sanctuary for the Festival of Pentecost, with many geraniums remaining after worship for planting in our landscaping beds. In addition to geraniums, members donated cash to purchase mulch to help with weeding. Our quiet crew of unsung gardeners includes Ruth & Verle Elsass, Carl Geib, Audrey Hartman, Renee Keith, Carol Rossbach, Faye Shankle, Jayne Schrader, Chris Thomas, and Gail Vogt. We thank them – and you – for helping to keep Zion beautiful.

Renee Santmyer and Mark Sickafoose will wed at Zion on the afternoon of Saturday, August 4th. Mark is the nephew of 1st Lt. Mark Peterson, U. S. Air Force, MIA since the end of the Viet Nam War (1/27/1973).
