

## WORDS FROM THE PASTOR:

July is a month we set aside to celebrate our ministry of Vacation Bible School. We spend the first half of the month preparing for it, the middle of the month experiencing it, and the last half basking on the afterglow of a week well spent. We are fortunate at Zion to have the best VBS director on the planet; and we thank Debbie Fox for another great week leading our *Adventures on Promise Island*. All of the pages of this newsletter offer proof positive of all the good stuff we enjoyed with the five days of fantastic fun that came together for us during the summer day camp we call *Vacation Bible School at Zion*.

I must admit that no matter how familiar the Bible stories are that we share during Vacation Bible School, I always learn a lot about the lessons we feature. Our first day at VBS featured lessons that focused on God's promise, *I Will Be with You*. It turns out that this is the very first promise God makes in the New Testament. The Gospel of Matthew introduces the birth of Jesus with the angel's announcement that his name shall be "Emmanuel, which means *God is with us*." This is also the last promise Matthew proclaims with the Great Commission, "Lo, *I am with you always*, to the end of the age, and beyond." (Matthew 1:23 & 28:20)

On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, we covered the good news that God promises to care about us, to provide what we need, and to save us from our sins and so much more. When we gathered in the Sanctuary for our opening devotions on Friday, the sad and tragic news from Aurora, Colorado had filled the airwaves. Horrible news of senseless violence has a way of kicking you in the gut, leaving you with nothing to say because words just kind of ring hollow. It's not that we don't know what to say; it's just that we don't have the power to explain what has no cause, or to fix what has no cure.

As it turned out, I couldn't imagine a better place to be than in a place that had God's promises hanging on the walls and fresh in our minds: I am with you; I care about you; I will give you what you need, save you from your sins, listen to your prayers, and I will answer you. Isn't that exactly why we have Vacation Bible School? Life is going to kick us in the gut with tough questions. We want our kids to know where to go when you don't know where to go. That place is here in the church, as we struggle with our need to trust God's grace and try our best to share God's love, gathering to affirm *what a friend we have in Jesus*, hoping that together we'll figure out how to *take it to the Lord in prayer*.

The truth is that I think we all agreed we were in the right place at the right time, with the right message about a loving God who cares about us, listens to our prayers, and responds by providing exactly what we need. I believe that as you read through the pages that follow, you, too, will thank God for summer rituals like Vacation Bible School. It's true that the food was great, that we had lots of fun, and that miracles happen when we join together in our desire to serve the Lord and share his love. But we also found out that God is listening even before we know what to say and how to pray; and what is more, we know that God wants us to pray for everything we need because it's through prayer that we come to know what we need, namely, the faithful love of a gracious God who honors His word and keeps His promises. That's what we learned during our week of *Adventures on Promise Island*. Thanks be to God!

## JUNE'S BUDGET SURPLUS

Our June meeting ended the program year on a strong note. Present were Jim Fidler (President), Juanita Cignetti (Secretary), Dave Palumbo (Treasurer), Dale Jacobs (Worship), Cathy Harvey (Caring), Lorin Beaber (Property), Vicki Givler (Parish Life), Beth Shaheen (Social Outreach), Mark Votaw (Resource), Pastor Sherwindt, along with newly elected Council members, Beth Willis and Valerie Cizek, with Alex Robbins attending as a visitor. Renee Keith and Brian Milek were unable to attend.

The Treasurer's Report for June offered several points of good news: monthly income was strong; expenses were in check; and we enjoyed our sixth consecutive surplus in a row, a perfect record thus far for 2012! Our monthly surplus for June was \$176.69, and our surplus year-to-date is \$4,888.05, a \$10,239.83 improvement over last year! We have benefited greatly from the Early Bird Giving program we rolled out in January. That early giving has kept us in the black all year long. The summer months are a challenge for most churches. We hope that our families will remember that bills continue to mount during these summer months. Please remember us with your generosity during the summer.

### ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS FOR JUNE

June Income	\$ 19,539.82
June Expenses	<u>\$ 19,363.13</u>
<b>June Surplus</b>	<b>\$ 176.69</b>
Income through June	\$ 125,916.31
Expenses thru June	<u>\$ 121,028.26</u>
<b>2012 YTD Surplus</b>	<b>\$ 4,888.05</b>
2011 YTD Deficit	(\$ 5,351.78)

*We thank you for your generous support!*

## MORE COUNCIL NEWS

Lorin Beaber, our newly elected Council President, called our July meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Also present were Brian Milek (VP), Dave Palumbo (Treasurer), Dale Jacobs (Worship), Cathy Harvey (Caring), Beth Shaheen (Resource), Vicki Givler (Parish Life), Beth Willis (Social Outreach), Renee Keith (Learning), Todd Elsass (Property), and Pastor Sherwindt. Valerie Cizek and Juanita Cignetti were excused. Pastor Sherwindt opened with devotions, which were based from lessons from VBS.

**Our Bicentennial Task Force** has been meeting as we prepare for our 200<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2014. We have established the weekend of **June 14 – 15, 2014** as the centerpiece of our planning. Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has been invited to preach and preside at our Anniversary Service on Sunday, June 15; and we have begun to think about hosting a Bicentennial Prime Rib Dinner on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, which is the actual date of our founding. We realize that this is two years away; but we'd like our members to set aside these dates as we look ahead to a great bicentennial at Zion.

**Council Appointment:** In light of the fact that Lorin Beaber had been serving as our Property Ministry Elder before getting elected to become our President, Council appointed one of our trustees, **Todd Elsass**, to serve the remainder of Lorin's term as our **Property Ministry Elder**, a term which runs through June 2013.

**Property Ministry:** Interim solutions attempted with the air-conditioning at the parsonage proved ineffective; and after examining several bids and proposals, we approved the purchase and installation of a new AC system for the parsonage.

## GREAT NEWS ABOUT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

A great group of islanders joined us at Vacation Bible School for a week of adventures in fun, learning and service at *Promise Island*, July 16<sup>th</sup> through July 20<sup>th</sup>. We had 50 children registered this year, averaging about 43 children each day. The children experienced a wide variety of activities during the week – great lessons, music, crafts, games, delicious food, many community service projects, and our big Island Farewell Celebration.



The children went on a week of adventures at Promise Island where they were able to discover and learn about God's amazing and lifesaving love. Each day the children learned about one of God's promises: **I AM WITH YOU; I CARE ABOUT YOU; I WILL GIVE YOU WHAT YOU NEED; I WILL SAVE YOU; and I WILL ANSWER YOU.** Pastor Sherwindt introduced each day's lesson during the opening to get us started on our daily adventures.



Monday's adventure was discovering *God's promise that He is with us*. The lesson was about Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, three exiled men who lived in Babylon and worshiped the one true God alone. The king ordered them tied up and thrown into a fiery furnace because they would not worship an idol. When the king looked into the fire, he saw four men, and the fourth figure looked superhuman. The king called the men to come out and Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were all unharmed! Because the three men knew that God was with them, they boldly stood for what was right. When we accept God's promise to be with us, we, too, can stand firm knowing we are never alone.

Tuesday's adventure was discovering *God's promise that He cares about us*. The lesson was about Jesus' good friends, Mary, Martha, and their brother Lazarus. When Lazarus was very ill, his sisters sent word to Jesus. But Jesus intentionally did not go to them until four days after Lazarus died. Even though Mary and Martha were disappointed, they still knew Jesus cared for them. He wept with them and shared their pain even though he knew he was going to raise Lazarus from the dead. When we accept God's promise to care about us, we know that He shares our pain. Yet, in the midst of that pain, we can be confident that God knows what is to come.



Wednesday's adventure was discovering *God's promise that He will give us what we need*. In the lesson we read from Mark 2:1-12, many had gathered at a home to hear Jesus speak, and the house was full. Four men took their friend, who could not walk, on a mat to Jesus. Because the house was full, they took the man up to the roof and lowered him through an opening in the roof. Jesus forgave the paralyzed man of his sins. He then told him to get up, take his mat, and go home; and that is just what the man did! Jesus not only forgave him, but also healed him. God gave the man who couldn't walk what he needed just as God promises to give us what we need, and we can trust that He knows our needs even better than we do.



## MORE GOOD NEWS ABOUT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (CONT'D)

Thursday's adventure was discovering ***God's promise that He will save us***. The lesson was the story of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. The children's Bible verse that day was John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." When we accept this good news of God's promised love, we can be confident in God's plan to save us from our sins and the promise of eternal life.

Our final adventure on Friday was discovering ***God's promise that He will answer us***. The lesson was about Paul and Silas, and how their prayers were answered by God. One of their journeys led them to Philippi, where they met a slave girl who had a demonic spirit. Paul ordered the demon to leave the girl and it did. This made the girl's owner angry, and he had Paul and Silas thrown into jail where they decided to do nothing except sing and pray to God. As they were singing, the earth began to shake and the doors of the jail flew open. The jail guard was sure his prisoners were gone, but Paul shouted, "We are all here!" Paul and Silas told the jailer and his family about Jesus. Then the jailer and his family believed this Good News, accepted Jesus as Lord, and were baptized. They were happy because now they knew about Jesus. God answered the prayers of Paul and Silas, and God promises to answer our prayers, too. When we accept God's promise to answer us, we will pray in good times and in bad, knowing that He will hear and answer us.



We were also very blessed this year to have ***two special Island speakers*** who joined us during the week. ***Sara Chambers***, Program Director at Solid Rock Therapeutic Riding Center, joined us on Monday. She talked to the kids about how this center helps people with disabilities and veterans with horseback riding. She also talked about how they help rehabilitate rescued horses that were injured or abused. On Tuesday, ***Austin Sherwindt*** joined us to talk to the children about his adventures as a Peace Corps volunteer in Armenia. He had lots of photos to share and the kids had a lot of questions about all of the work and experiences Austin had during his time in Armenia.



We had an awesome group of Lifeguards (*aka* teachers) at Promise Island this year – Brooke Roman (assistants: Christian Heller & Nathan Fox), Chrissy Parkomaki (assistant: Brooke Stout), Connie Riffle (assistant: Emma Shaheen), Tina Beaber (assistants: Carley Frank, Riley Matulich & Johanna Henderson) and Renee Keith. They put in a lot of time and hard work to make this year's program such a success. I am so grateful to them for the amazing job that they did! The children learned so much and had a great island adventure thanks to these teachers!

***Great Music:*** As always, music was one of the highlights of VBS. We extend a special thank you to Kelly Walters and Haleigh Kimble for leading the music this year. They did an awesome job teaching the kids the songs and motions; and they put together a wonderful program for the Ice Cream Social, which parents, family and friends truly enjoyed. Music is always one of the children's favorite activities during VBS; and there is absolutely no doubt that they enjoyed singing and dancing with Kelly and Haleigh. Our thanks to Kelly & Haleigh for leading us through our Island music with such great enthusiasm and energy!



## MORE GOOD NEWS ABOUT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (CONT'D)

Our crafts were once again outstanding, thanks to the creativity, patience, and organization of Connie Frank and her assistant, Cheryl Roman. The kids really enjoyed this year's island crafts, which included *Boo Boo Bunnies*, *Comfort Caterpillars*, *Lip balm*, *Tie Dyed T-shirts*, *John 3:16 Crosses*, and much more. The finished products were great!

Our *Service Project Room* was very busy again this year keeping in the tradition of Zion's VBS! Thank you to Nicole & Kat Milek for all of their hard work during the week. Everything went very smoothly and the children really did some amazing work while learning the very valuable lesson of serving others by letting God use their talents to accomplish His aims.

Thank you to our crew that led the outdoor rotation at *Fun Time Falls* all week – Eric Dague, Lya Milek, and Kevin Walters. The kids loved going outside to enjoy a variety of games and activities. One of our favorite activities was based on Tuesday's lesson, *Lazarus, Come Out!* The children wrapped our youth volunteers in toilet paper, kind of like Lazarus was wrapped in the tomb. Once wrapped, the children called, "Lazarus, come out!" Our youth volunteers broke out of the wrappings and awoke from death. On Wednesday, the children went on a scavenger hunt in search of things we need to live. The games and activities encouraged teamwork and incorporated our daily themes in the decisions our children needed to make while outside.

Our *Coconut Cafe Crew*, led by Darlene Milavickas and Beth Willis, was awesome! They gave us a great menu that the children loved, and everyone involved worked very hard to keep everyone fed and happy! A special thanks to Dave Palumbo for *Pasta Day*, which is always a favorite! We also had a traveling popsicle and ice cream cart for which the children waited with anticipation each and every day! Each treat was 25 cents, and the money collected was added to our offering, which we donated to Zion's Food Pantry and Solid Rock Therapeutic Riding Center. Thanks to Christian Henderson, Brandon Stout, and Vicki Givler for making all the trips with the cart throughout the church – and even out to the pavilion – all week long. We also treated our friends in Senior Independence to ice cream from the cart throughout the week.

The week finished with our *Family Night & Ice Cream Social* on Thursday night. Our *Promise Island Farewell Celebration* followed the next day on Friday. Thursday's program was a huge hit. The kids did a great job singing and dancing, the highlight video was enjoyed by all, and the ice cream was a delicious end to the evening! Thank you to Janet Slease, Beth Willis, and Barb Achauer for taking care of the kitchen for the Ice Cream Social. Friday's Promise Island Farewell Celebration included carnival games and island activities at *Fun Time Falls*, which included the big water slide, our slip & slides, water limbo, water balloons, ball tag, our wet T-shirt relay race, and other water activities, followed by a pizza party and more ice cream. It was a perfect ending to celebrate a great week of learning and service, along with all our kids' hard work!



Zion's VBS is a great success because of the contributions and commitments that are offered by all involved – our staff, the children, their families, and the congregation, too. We offer our thanks to everyone who donated supplies, food, money, and time!

## MORE ABOUT OUR STAFF AT "ADVENTURES ON PROMISE ISLAND"

The following is a list of the staff and volunteers who are invaluable to me and Zion! Many of these people did more than just the category they are listed in. Everyone was willing to help out wherever and whenever they were needed! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You to everyone!

- LIFEGUARDS:** Brooke Roman, Chrissy Parkomaki,  
Connie Riffle, Tina Beaver, Renee Keith
- ISLAND MUSIC:** Kelly Walters & Haleigh Kimble
- COCONUT CAFE CREW:** Darlene Milavickas, Beth Willis, Dave Palumbo, Steve Dague,  
Chris & Peg Thomas, Barb Achauer, Bob Lancashire, Gary &  
Shirley Horton, Linda Wilson, Jeff Frank
- ISLAND CRAFTS:** Connie Frank, Cheryl Roman
- ISLAND QUILTERS:** Kay Davis, Ruth Elsass, Sue Geib, Joyce Gibeaut, Helen Heller,  
Donna James, Betty Lenz, Linda Lenz, Donna Roan, Ann Semple,  
Carol Snyder, Pat Stayer, Betty Tracy, Linda Wilson
- ISLAND HELPERS:** Johanna Henderson, Melissa Riffle, Jayne Schrader, Pr. Sherwindt
- ISLAND YOUTH HELPERS:** Nathan Fox, Carley Frank, Christian Heller, Natalie Henderson,  
Christian Henderson, Riley Matulich, Emma Shaheen, Brandon  
Stout, Brooke Stout, Jaret Beaver
- GUEST SPEAKERS:** Sara Chambers, Austin Sherwindt
- SET UP & DECORATIONS:** Jeff Frank, Carley Frank, Cassie Frank, Dean Fox, Nathan Fox,  
Jeremy Fox, Carol Rossbach, Renee Keith, Brooke Roman, Emma  
Shaheen, Jayne Schrader, Brian Walters, Mark Votaw, Chrissy  
Parkomaki, Jacob Parkomaki, Emma Parkomaki, Connie Riffle,  
Melissa Riffle, Kevin Walters, Kelly Walters, Sharon Stout,  
Brooke Stout, Johanna Henderson, Natalie Henderson, Christian  
Henderson, Nicole Milek, Lya Milek
- ISLAND SERVICE PROJECTS:** Nicole & Kat Milek
- FUN TIME FALLS STAFF:** Eric Dague, Lya Milek, Kevin Walters
- ISLAND REGISTRATION:** Vicki Givler
- HIGHLIGHT DVD:** Kelly Walters
- ICE CREAM SOCIAL:** Janet Slease, Beth Willis, Barb Achauer



This year was truly amazing! Because of the above people, our program was a great success. Zion is blessed with a great group of volunteers who make our VBS program one of the best! Everyone's flexibility, time commitment and hard work are invaluable! I could not do it without everyone's help and support; and for that I am so very grateful from the bottom of my heart!

Debbie Fox, Director of Adventures on Promise Island

## DAILY SERVICE PROJECTS AT ADVENTURES ON PROMISE ISLAND

This year the children were again involved with many service projects during the week because we feel this is such an important part of our Vacation Bible School program. We had a very enthusiastic, caring, and generous group this year, which made our projects a great success! Thank you to everyone for your support of all our projects.

**DAILY OFFERING** – The boys and girls once again had a contest to see who could collect the most money during the week. All week they filled up their respective jars and collected \$380.00. The girls collected a total of \$188.10 for the week; and the boys, \$191.90. This money, along with the money collected from the ice cream cart, will be donated to the Zion's Food Pantry and Solid Rock Therapeutic Riding Center in Hartville. What a generous and caring group of kids! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

**ZION'S FOOD PANTRY, PLUS SCHOOL KITS** – The children also brought in food items and school supplies to fill our *Canoe & Treasure Chest* at *Lifeguard Lagoon* in Luther Hall. These items will also go to Zion's Food Pantry so that we can help families with school supplies needs in our community! Again, thanks to everyone for your support!

**QUILT SQUARES** – For yet another year, the children designed beautiful and colorful quilt squares in what has become a wonderful tradition with Vacation Bible School at Zion. *Zion's Comfort Givers* were able to sew 11 amazing & beautiful quilts from the squares the children created. Ten of these quilts will be sent to Lutheran World Relief to help those in need across the globe, and one was raffled off on Family Night. Our quilt raffle raised \$170 this year. Tina Beaber was the lucky winner of this year's Quilt Raffle. Congratulations to Tina, and thanks to the children and to Zion's talented and amazing quilters for all of your hard work!

**OTHER PROJECTS** – The children also worked on several other projects throughout the week in their classrooms and during their service time. On Wednesday, the children made about 50 soap packages with special messages that *God provides* and *Jesus washes away your sin*. These will be given to local nursing homes and to our military. Miss Renee's class played *Glory Bible Bingo* with our friends in Senior Independence. It is so wonderful to see the children interacting with seniors and to watch them enjoying each other. On Thursday, all of the classes made about 60 *Boo Boo Bunnies* that will be donated to North Canton EMS and Akron Children's Hospital.

**ISLAND PRAYER CHAIN** – The children filled out *prayer chain links* each day during their service time. They were asked to put a prayer for someone they love or something they need or are thankful for on the links. Then, on Friday we saw that the prayer chain extended almost the length of the Sanctuary! It was a fitting message for a day that focused on God's promise to answer us and all of the prayers the children put in our chain. They did a great job and said many, many prayers. We are so proud of them!

***Thank you, again, to everyone for your support of all our projects! The week continued our great tradition of service at Zion's VBS, and we made great strides in all we achieved. You could see God's love at work everywhere you turned! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!***

HERE'S SOME GOOD NEWS ABOUT ZION'S SUNDAY SCHOOL



**Happy Birthday to:**

**UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**Sunday, September 2:** It's our Annual *End-of-the-Summer Party* on Labor Day Sunday

**Sunday, September 9:** *Rally Day* marks the beginning of yet another Sunday School Year

**Sunday, September 16:** The *2012-13 Sunday School Year* begins with classes for all ages

**SUNDAY SCHOOL REMINDER FOR PRE-K THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL**

We are taking a break this summer from Sunday School. There are no Sunday School classes for Pre-K through High School this summer. We will start up again in September when we kick off the Sunday School year with Rally Day on Sunday, September 9, 2012 and classes will start up again on Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>.

**OUR ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS MEETS IN LUTHER HALL**

Our Adult Class continues to meet weekly in Luther Hall between the services at 9:15 a.m. We have returned from Armenia and Turkey to our study of the Gospel of Mark. Our Guest Leader on August 5<sup>th</sup> will be Pr. Mark Oster, formerly the Senior Pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Massillon. Our study follows the Gospel texts that have been featured on Sunday mornings.

**DON'T FORGET ZION'S ANNUAL END-OF-THE-SUMMER PARTY**

You will all want to remember that we will once again begin September with our *End-of-the-Summer Party*. Lots of grills will be heating up a masterpiece in the parking lot. There will be great food, along with some great music, which will reach back to the high school glory days of Brian Walters' Rock 'n Roll Band. If all goes according to plan, we will start in the parking lot at Noon. Our grillers will be set and ready to go for yet another year of grilled food heaven.

The Council usually gets in the act by providing some great sides; but most of the heavy lifting is provided by our great grillers. Please feel free to join in the fun; and Brian Walters will be rock 'n rolling from 2:00 p.m. on! That's *Sunday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>*. Make us your Labor Day Weekend plans. You'll be glad you did, and so will we.

Then, the next Sunday, we'll celebrate Rally Day with lots of fun activities planned for the kids! It will be a great day filled with meaningful worship, fun for our kids, and fellowship for all.

## FOOD PANTRY NEWS

We are thankful that the efforts of Vacation Bible School helped fill our pantry shelves with food and our bank reserves with funds as we move through the time of year that reminds us that the needs of the families we serve remain constant, even while those of us who are blessed to help others are taking our summer breaks. Vacation Bible School Islanders were encouraged to bring in some food for a large physical offering, and by week's end, we had a mountain of food in Luther Hall, serving as an imposing reminder that God cares about us and will provide what we need. We thank our children and their families for their generosity in sharing.

In addition to this mountain of food, the daily offerings totaled \$380.00, and the ice cream cart added another \$45.00 to the mix. This \$425.00 was shared equally between Solid Rock Therapeutic Riding Center in Hartville and our Food Pantry here at Zion. That extra \$212.50 is very much appreciated as we head into August. The good news is that our reserves are strong. Our Treasurer keeps track of our Food Pantry Fund, and as of the end of June, our reserves stood at \$4,140.63. We are so thankful for your support. The time you give, the treasures you share, and the actual food you donate is making a difference for families in need here in our neighborhood.

We also want to thank the persons who have stepped forward as leaders and volunteers. Jayne Schrader has done a great job, along with Council members Beth Willis and Cathy Harvey, in helping to oversee a seamless transition, and those who make up the helping hands of Zion's Food Pantry & Clothing Closet have stepped up to offer their support and love for this ministry, which God has called and equipped us to offer in Jesus' name.

## THE WOMEN OF ZION

*The Comfort Givers* met during the week of Vacation Bible School, and did a great job organizing scores of quilt squares designed by our VBS kids into eleven beautiful quilts, ten of which will become a part of Blanket Sunday in October, with one given to this year's raffle winner, our own Tina Beaber!

We would like to thank Zion's Comfort Givers for their hard work and faithfulness: Kay Davis, Ruth Elsass, Sue Geib, Joyce Gibeaut, Helen Heller, Patty Stayer, and her sister Donna James, Betty Lenz, and her daughter Linda Lenz, Donna Roan, Ann Semple, Carol Snyder, Betty Tracy, and Linda Wilson. It makes a difference having the whole community involved in Vacation Bible School, and it's clear that our women look forward to the fun this collaborative connection affords. They'll be taking the month of August off, and will return to their regular schedule in September.

*The Women of Zion* thank you in advance for your help with School Kits and Personal Care Kits this year. **PERSONAL CARE KITS** include a bath-size towel (approximately 52" X 27", darker colors recommended), 2 bath-size bars of soap (4 to 5 oz.), an adult-size toothbrush (in its original packaging), a sturdy comb, and a metal nail clipper. **SCHOOL KITS** include four 70-sheet notebooks, a 30-centimeter ruler, blunt scissors, 5 unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers, 5 ballpoint pens (no gel ink), a box of 16 or 24 crayons, a pencil sharpener, an eraser 2 ½ inches in length, and a sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag approximately 14" X 17" with shoulder straps. We realize that the list gets more demanding every year; but don't forget that donations of cash are as useful as your shopping for the items. We'll be happy to do the shopping if you provide the cash!

## MORE WOMEN'S NEWS

*The Women's Bible Study* continues with Part 3 of their summer series *Encounters with Christ Along the Way*. We have learned from the encounter Jacob had as he wrestled with God, and received a new name. We have learned from the encounter Elijah had when we heard God speaking in the small, still voice, and received a new mission. In August we will learn from the woman at the well in John 4, and then from the two travelers who walked with Jesus on the road to Emmaus in Luke 24. When their eyes were opened to who Jesus was, they shared the good news with others. God changed them, and they changed the world. All we can say is, "Come and see." This is the biblical pattern that recounts the miracles that occurred with the beginning faith and the birth of the church.

**The Canton-Massillon Cluster:** NEOSWO stands for the Northeastern Ohio Synod Women's Organization. *Fall in the Country* is the theme of the Canton-Massillon Cluster Fall Fellowship, which is scheduled for Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at St Jacob Lutheran Church, 8697 Mudbrook Road in Massillon. Registration is from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Tea & coffee will be available. Mr. Loren Viegel, Director of *Voices of Canton, Inc.*, will present a program on *The History of Hymns*. The cost is \$6.00, which includes brunch. In-kind gifts of bingo prizes for the residents of St. Luke Lutheran Community will be collected. We are looking for items like lotion, tissues in cube boxes, costume jewelry, men's white socks, and fun-size candy bars. Our cash offering will be divided between NEOSWO and the Voices of Canton. The deadline for registration is Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Betty Tracy with your interest in attending.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Our Church Council** returns to its regular meeting time, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. in the Resource Center. That means that our **Steering Ministry** will meet Monday evening, August 13<sup>th</sup>, in the Pastor's Office.

The **Witness Ministry** will meet again on Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, continuing with our focus on improving Zion's website.

**Mutual Ministry** will meet on Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Resource Center.

Our **Worship Ministry** now meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, which is August 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.

The **Women's Bible Study** meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, which is August 21<sup>st</sup>, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Resource Center.

Our **Trustees** meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, which is August 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. in the Resource Center.

### A READING FROM JOHN 21:15-18a

(Complete the paragraph by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the following: care, feed, Jesus, love, third, eating, hurt, know, sheep, yes.)

When they had finished \_\_\_\_\_, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you \_\_\_\_\_ me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you \_\_\_\_\_ that I love you." Jesus said, "\_\_\_\_\_ my lambs." Again \_\_\_\_\_ said, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "\_\_\_\_\_, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take \_\_\_\_\_ of my sheep." The \_\_\_\_\_ time he said to him, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was \_\_\_\_\_ because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my \_\_\_\_\_."

