

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR:

Before turning our focus to a very busy October, let's linger a bit more on an incredible and enjoyable September. We began the month with an *End-of-the-Summer* Party that was a huge success ... by every measure. We extend our thanks to the great grillers: to Randy Cizek & his crew for preparing pork of all sorts; to Dale Jacobs with his sausage-n-peppers sandwiches; to Brian Milek and his shish kabob; to Dave Palumbo with fish and shrimp; to Steve Robbins and his wings 'n things; to Chris Thomas & Dan Wilson and their traditional fare of hotdogs and hamburgers; and to Mark Votaw with Cornish game hen and crazy vegetables! Everything was grilled to perfection. We must also extend a big thank you to Beth Willis and Cathy Harvey, who coordinated the potluck side of the party, and kept our kitchen organized and immaculate!

The food was great; the fellowship, fabulous; and the music, a huge hit! In that regard, we extend our thanks to Brian Walters and *The Middle of the Road*. Brian helped to convince his old high school rock band that they still had it, and that it was time for a nostalgia tour. In truth, they do still have it, and so does Brian, new look and all. The band was great. Brian has a gift for entertaining, and we all enjoyed listening to some great hits from the easy listening country rock world of the 70s and 80s. The remnants of Isaac had us worried about what rain and wind might mean for the musicians and their electronic equipment. But the four-hours between Noon and 4:00 p.m. were dry, kind of balmy, and even sunny as the afternoon wore on. What an answer to prayer, and what a huge success!

Our members and friends were very generous in their support of buying, selling, and donating tickets. As it turned out, we were able to raise almost \$1,800 for the many ministries we support through our congregational life at Zion. Plus, we saw friends from among the families we serve at our Food Pantry & Clothing Closet, along with a good number of the residents who work or live at Dick and Bruce's group home, as well as our friends who live at the parsonage. There were lots of visitors, too. In other words, we made sure that lots of folks whom we don't usually see were invited and felt welcomed. The funds that we raised were used to support our food pantry, make some much-needed repairs at the parsonage, and extend a little more good will for our support of the work of the wider church. To everyone who helped, to all who joined us, and on behalf of the many who will benefit, many, many thanks!

So, that was September 2nd. On September 9th, the Sunday School celebrated Rally Day, and that was great for all our kids. On September 16th, we hosted a reception in Luther Hall, both to bid farewell to Dale Jacobs and to introduce our members, or should I say, re-introduce our members to the Internship Program. Zion had five interns back in the 1970s during Pastor Meuschke's tenure. Our Church Council looked at what might be involved in participating in this program again, and members of Council were on hand to talk more about it. On the next Sunday, September 23rd, our finance folks were on hand to talk about its feasibility for 2013 and 2014. We'll have more to report on this matter later; but it really is amazing how timely this idea might be, and how now may be the time when the financial components look so favorable as to make the prospect of participating inviting and compelling for Zion.

We'll find out how inviting and how compelling on Wednesday evening, October 31st, when we get to talk more and decide about our interest at our Congregational Meeting. Please be there!

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

Lorin Beaber called our September Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance were Juanita Cignetti, Dave Palumbo, Beth Shaheen, Dale Jacobs, Renee Keith, Vicki Givler, Todd Elsass, and Pastor Sherwindt. Our Treasurer's Report for August showed yet another monthly surplus, our eighth in a row, which means that we have had monthly surpluses every month this year. Our surplus for August was \$491.14. Our budget surplus for the year is \$5,860.72. Since September is a five-Sunday month, we have every reason to expect that we will extend our string of consecutive monthly surpluses to nine! We are so thankful for your generous support.

In addition to saying goodbye to summer, our September meeting looked ahead to the Congregational Meeting that deals with the 2013 Proposed Budget. All of our ministries are making their respective contributions to the process. The Finance Team will meet on October 3rd to formulate a proposed budget that Council will take up on October 11th, and then pass along to you for your approval at our Congregational Meeting on Wednesday, October 31th, which begins with dinner in Memorial Hall at 6:15 p.m., followed by our meeting in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.

ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS FOR AUGUST

August Income	\$ 17,709.04
August Expenses	<u>\$ 17,217.90</u>
August Surplus	\$ 491.14
Income thru August	\$165,963.40
Expenses " August	<u>\$160,102.68</u>
2012 Surplus thru August	\$ 5,860.72
2011 Deficit thru August	(\$ 5,821.00)

We thank you for your generous support!

MORE COUNCIL NEWS

Resource Ministry: Every aspect of our financial performance has been exceptional in 2013. Our *Early Bird Giving* plan helped us get off to a strong start, which we have sustained with monthly surpluses throughout the year. Our various church funds that are not a part of the operating budget have also maintained strong balances: the Youth Fund has \$4,929.36 in it; the Food Pantry Fund, \$3,857.90; the HV/AC Fund, \$3,938.98; and even our various funds that are held at Merrill Lynch have had great performance in 2012, with balances related to our New Building, Reserve, Master Plan, and Memorials funds exceeding \$212,000.00. Our year thus far has combined generous giving, reduced expenses, and great market performance. TBTG!

Property Ministry: We extend our thanks to our many members who have had a hand in maintaining the grounds and keeping our landscaping beds looking so good: Ruth & Verle Elsass, Carl Geib, Audrey Hartman, Gary Horton, Renee Keith, Carol Rossbach, Jayne Schrader, Faye Shankle, Chris Thomas, Gail Vogt, and Dan Wilson. We also want to thank Chris Thomas (and Dan Wilson) for the work they have done in creating a ramp that now helps with access through our Narthex outside doors. We thank Lorin Beaber for his contact with a leveling company that repaired some concrete at the parsonage, and Nick Cignetti, whose contact with a roofer helped with some gutter and drainage issues at the parsonage. We are anticipating scheduling an outdoor cleanup day on Saturday morning, probably in November, when there might be a few jobs left to do as we prepare for the winter. Zion's Trustees would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to help with these many projects. Every little bit helps.

AN INTERN AT ZION?

As promised in last month's *Zion Herald*, Council members were on hand during the Sunday School hour in Luther Hall on the Sundays of September 16th and September 23rd to discuss our desire to participate in the Internship Program through Trinity Lutheran Seminary. We last participated in the Internship Program back in the 1970s, when Pastor Meuschke supervised five interns as they prepared for a lifetime of pastoral ministry in the ELCA. Pastors Bob Linsz, Tom Phillips, Gary Hartman, Mike Wiechers, and David Stickley served congregations here in northeast Ohio, and all over the country. We hope to connect with them during the year of our Bicentennial Anniversary; but for now, we just want to recall their service as a way of suggesting that perhaps now is the time to think about becoming a teaching congregation again.

In fact, Council President Lorin Beaber introduced the idea of participating with precisely that idea. The way our financial good news has been lining up this year, now may be exactly the time to apply and participate. Our balances are healthy; the support is there; our young families have the interest; and all of our families want to see our youth and family ministries moving in a direction that increases excitement and growth. Inviting an Intern to join us might be just the medicine our Great Physician has in mind for us. Council Vice-President Brian Milek shared the positive history he enjoyed with this program in Minnesota, and offered the hope that this could be a game-changer for us. Laura Thompson laid out the financial plan that made it clear just how financially feasible it is for us to look forward to an Intern joining us, beginning in September 2013 and continuing through August 2014.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

We have set *Wednesday, October 31st*, as the date for our *Fall Congregational Meeting*. This is the meeting set aside to discuss and approve our Proposed Budget for 2013. Part of the 2013 Operating Budget includes the proposal of our participating in the Internship Program during the 2013-14 academic year. An Intern's year of service would overlap into two budget years for us, with one-third covering in 2013 and two-thirds covering 2014. We have estimated that the costs for an Intern would be \$11,000 in 2013, and then \$22,000 in 2014. The Youth Fund will cover \$4,000 of the cost; our present surplus will cover \$3,340 of the cost; and the Pastor's Challenge will cover an additional \$4,144. That covers the costs for 2013, and we have a similar plan for 2014: \$4,000 from the Youth Fund; \$3,340 from what we expect will be surplus funds; and the rest coming from a Bicentennial Challenge, which is still two years out. There's plenty of time, lots of interest, and a good deal of motivation to make this happen ... with your approval.

Many of these ideas were shared during our Sunday morning receptions and discussions in September. Some of these ideas will be incorporated into our presentation of the 2013 Proposed Budget. So, the agenda for our Congregational Meeting will involve two major motions. First, there will be a motion to approve our applying to participate in the Internship Program, with the 2013-14 academic year as our target date. Second, there will be a motion to approve the 2013 Proposed Budget. As has become our tradition at Zion, we will meet for a delicious dinner in Memorial Hall at 6:15 p.m., with our Congregational Meeting to follow in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. That's Wednesday, October 31st. Please plan to join us.

YES, HOLY COMMUNION IS FOR KIDS!

October is the month we offer our *Communion Is for Kids* class for all of our children who are not yet confirmed. We want to have an open Table where all of the baptized are invited to receive the life and love our Lord offers with Holy Communion, and we invite all of our children to join us. But this means that we have to help our children understand what we are inviting them to receive by participating in Holy Communion. That's what this class is about, and why it is important. It's not a once-and-done affair, where our children learn what they need to know, and that's that. We never stop learning about what it means to take in the love God gives with communion. Our many questions about God's being gracious change every year.



That's why we decided to stop for a moment, and ask our kids what questions they have about Holy Communion. Maybe they need to know more about the subtle differences between transubstantiation and consubstantiation. No, that wasn't it. The most commonly asked question was, "How's the bread made?" That reminded me of the question I recall my sister asking before her first communion, when she was wondering what to do when the wafer got stuck to the roof of her mouth! Some of our kids asked, "Why do some people pray after communion? If we're supposed to be praying, what should we pray about?" It's interesting what our children see when we celebrate communion at worship.

Then, there were questions about why we celebrate communion every week, and why churches where some of their friends worship do not celebrate communion like we do. Of course, our kids also asked questions that go to the heart of why we offer this class about communion: What is Holy Communion? What's the purpose of Holy Communion? Why is Holy Communion so important? These questions are talked about before our kids take communion; but these same questions can take on a different meaning after our kids have been receiving communion. Maybe they thought the experience would be different. Is it still special, even though it may not have been special in the way they first thought it would?

Again, this is why we offer the class every year, until, with Confirmation, they get to discuss those classic questions like, "Are the bread and wine really the body and blood of Christ, or are they symbols of those things?" We hope that the questions never stop; and we know that there are no better persons to listen and respond to these questions than Chuck Danner, Debbie Fox, and Miriam Keating. We are truly blessed with their willingness to take the lead in teaching these classes. Our *Communion Is For Kids* class is just one step in an ongoing journey of learning, loving, and responding to what God is doing for us through the amazing grace, which we receive with Holy Communion. All we ask is that parents support this effort with your children's presence at these Sunday morning sessions.

There is one question that I can answer in this newsletter. Since receiving communion, many of our kids are really paying attention to the service, and have wondered, "Pastor, when you are beginning the communion part of the service, and say, 'In the night in which I was betrayed,' who betrayed you?" Fortunately, in this age of self-centered me-me-me myopia, I can safely say, "It's not about me!" Hey, come to think of it, isn't that a fundamental challenge of our faith?

GREAT NEWS FROM ZION'S SUNDAY SCHOOL



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- Sunday, October 7th:** *Communion Is For Kids* class begins during the second service
- Sunday, October 14th:** Sunday School Event: Service Project for the Craft Show
- Saturday, October 20:** Youth Missions Oktoberfest & Craft Show 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 31:** Zion's Annual Sunday School Halloween Party at 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, November 4th:** We Celebrate *All Saints Day* with Certificates for our Kids

PRE-KINDERGARTEN THROUGH THE SIXTH GRADE

Our Sunday School year is off to a great start! The kids are enjoying our new curriculums – *Holy Moly* and *Connect*. As always, there are great stories, crafts, games, and snacks that go along with each lesson. Sunday School begins every Sunday at 9:15 a.m., and our classes and activities end at 10:15 a.m. We hope your children will join us!

Thank you to this year's teachers, who have dedicated their time and effort to our great kids:

- Pre-K & Kindergarten: Connie Riffle
- 1st thru 4th Grades: Janet Slease
- 5th & 6th Grades: Nicole Milek & Sharon Stout

On Sunday, October 14th, the kids will be dipping chocolates and making items for the Bake Sale table during Sunday School in order to help get everything ready for our Ninth Annual Youth Missions Craft Show. It will be a great morning of messy, but delicious fun! If you would like to help, we will need large marshmallows, Double Stuff Oreos, and long pretzel rods for dipping. Anyone and everyone is welcome to donate items.

THANKS TO ALL FOR MAKING RALLY DAY A SUCCESS!

A big thank you goes out to our Catechism and High School Classes, Sunday School teachers and parents who helped with Rally Day. The kids had a lot of fun, ate lots of donuts, and won many carnival prizes that morning! We really appreciate everyone's willingness to pitch in!

AN ACME COMMUNITY CASH-BACK RECEIPTS REMINDER

We are once again back to collecting Acme Receipts to help raise funds for our youth and youth programming. This year we will receive cash back credit for receipts dated **September 22, 2012 through February 9, 2013**. Please be sure that your receipt has the **Community Cash Back** amount at the bottom. There will be a collection can in the Narthex. Please save your receipts and help us raise money for our youth! We extend our thanks in advance for your great support!

MORE GREAT NEWS FOR ZION'S YOUTH

ZION'S ANNUAL YOUTH HALLOWEEN PARTY IS ON ... WITH AN INTERESTING TWIST

We will once again have the Youth of Zion Halloween Party at the same time as our Congregational Meeting. The party will be Wednesday, October 31st, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. We are going to enjoy the outdoors again, as we will meet outside in the pavilion for pizza and other delicious snacks at 6:00 p.m., and then roast marshmallows and enjoy s'mores for dessert. There will be games, crafts, and other surprises, followed by "door-to-door" trick-or-treating at the end. *The children should wear their costumes (dressed for the weather), bring a pumpkin to decorate, and bring a flashlight, too.*



If anyone would like to donate things like graham crackers, Hershey's small chocolate candy bars, marshmallows, candy, and small items for trick-or-treating, that would be greatly appreciated. Sign-up sheets for the party are located in the Church Office. Please sign up by Sunday, October 28th, so we have enough food and supplies. The children are welcome to invite a friend. We also need our older youth to help out if they are available that evening. We look forward to seeing all the kids and their awesome costumes. If the weather does not cooperate, we'll move the party inside, which is no problem, since that's how we have done it in the past.

ZION'S NINTH ANNUAL YOUTH MISSIONS CRAFT SHOW & FALL "OKTOBERFEST"

The Craft Show is fast approaching! Zion's Youth will once again have a table at this year's show. The kids will be making chocolates and other goodies to sell this year along with our Bake Sale Table. We look forward to the delicious items our youth are making. We will again have great raffle baskets that will be donated by the Sunday School Classes. Raffle tickets for these baskets will go on sale Sunday, October 7th: the cost will be three for \$1, or twenty for \$5. The baskets will be raffled off the night of our Congregational Meeting, October 31st. All classes will make the following baskets: the *Sweet Treats Basket*, the *Pamper Yourself & Spa Basket*, the *Ohio State University Fan Basket*, the *Kids Fun & Rainy Day Basket*, and the *Family Fun Night Basket*.



Our Youth Missions Craft Show raises money for all sorts of youth ministry programming, including support for the Internship Program next year. The youth will again sell German take-out dinners for \$8.00 each. You will see them selling tickets after both services and just before second service each Sunday at church. They'll be set up at a table located in the hallway by the *Food Pantry*. Please support our Youth as they serve God by helping those in need. By the way, youth will be needed on October 20th to help with the Craft Show. We will need the kids to staff the youth table, help the other crafters unload, help in the concession area and Bake Sale table, and any other odds 'n ends that come up. We will also need help with set up on Friday, October 19th. There are sign-up sheets in Luther Hall for all who can help! There are also sign-up sheets in Luther Hall for food items, bake sale items, set up, and help during the Craft Show. Your support, as always, is greatly appreciated!

THE WOMEN OF ZION

The *Chancel Guild* will meet to work on polishing the silver and cleaning the Chancel on the evening of **Monday, October 8th, at 6:30 p.m.** We always have a great time cleaning, and what better way to spend Columbus Day than to meet with friends to enjoy the gifts of delightful fellowship and delicious treats. You're welcome to join us.

Zion's Comfort Givers meet on the second and fourth Thursdays, which in October will be the 11th and 25th, 9:30 a.m. in Luther Hall. There's lot of work to be done, but we enjoy more than our share of good conversation, along with some breaks that allow for coffee, cookies, muffins, or some such thing. As the saying goes, many hands make work light. Yours are just the hands we're looking for. We can always use the help. So try to join us.

Zion's Comfort Givers recently received a windfall of sewing material. Just when the shelves were almost bare, three generous "ole time retired" replenished our shelves. Connie Harsh, a Zion Lutheran Church member who spends her winters in Florida with her husband Larry, along with Mildred "Millie" Hostettler, who worked for years with our quilters, and Mary Virca of Warren, a friend of Zion, all have donated yards of beautiful material with which to start our new year after the Lutheran World Relief shipment this month. The Comfort Givers are most appreciative of these contributions. Thank you for thinking of us! Now, all we need are quilters to join in the fun of transforming the material into beautiful comforters.

Speaking of material and beautiful comforters, some time ago the idea was floated to create a *bicentennial quilt* as part of our celebration of Zion's upcoming Bicentennial Anniversary in 2014. If this might interest you, let us know.

BLANKET SUNDAY, TOO

We hope you have found bargains on buying blankets. Bring them to church with you on **Blanket Sunday, October 7**. We will have one colorful display covering our pews when we add your blankets to the quilts that Zion's Comfort Givers have been working on in Luther Hall throughout the year. It is always a sight to see! Our blankets and comforters become a part of a larger shipment through which *Lutheran World Relief* delivers blankets, quilts, school kits, and personal care kits to families across the globe. In 2011, with the help of Verle and Todd Elsass, the Women of Zion were able to pack up their 64 quilts, 20 blankets, 45 school kits and 22 personal care kits into 34 boxes and get them delivered to Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Seville. This year, Zion's Comfort Givers will gather in Luther Hall at 9:30 a.m. on **Thursday, October 11**, to begin packing our items in boxes so that they can be driven to Jerusalem Lutheran Church on **Saturday, October 13**. Join in if you are able to help.

The monthly Bible study for the Women of Zion meets on **Tuesday, October 16**, when we will continue our study of *Gathered by God*, with Session 2 focused on *Learning the Tough Stuff*. We will spend some time with the first parable reported in Mark, which is the parable of the sower in chapter 4. What does it mean that Jesus always taught in parables? Could it be that Jesus' own life is a parable? What's the secret to understanding the meaning of the parables? What's the secret to understanding the meaning of Jesus life as a parable? You can be sure that the answer has something to do with the Cross. You will enjoy the Bible study Audrey West has prepared; and you will enjoy the Women of Zion who are planning to meet in the Resource Center, **October 16th, 9:30 a.m.**

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

As Beth Willis, Cathy Harvey and I – Jayne Schrader – begin to work on our annual ***Thanksgiving Food Pantry Great Turkey Give-away*** extravaganza, we are asking for your help. Since this is the first year of our leading the effort to provide complete turkey dinners for 60 of the families we serve through the food pantry, along with an additional 32 dinners that are distributed to Siffrin Group Homes, we are hoping that all of you are asking, “How can I help?”

There are several ways that will give you the opportunity to support this great need. You are welcome to purchase a 12-pound turkey, or you can make a monetary donation, and we will be glad to shop for you. Please keep in mind that we will need to have your donations of frozen turkeys in our pantry freezer by the first of November, as that is when we will be ordering the rest of the turkeys that we will need.

We will also need your help in gathering together the fixings for all of these turkey dinners. We not only provide the turkeys, but we also provide stuffing mix, potatoes, canned fruit, canned green beans or corn, rolls, and pies, again, for 92 families.

A final way you can help is to join us on Tuesday, November 20, to help pick up the turkeys at Wal-Mart on Route 62, or be at the church at 9:00 a.m. to volunteer with the Food Pantry Crew helping to get all of the “fixins” bagged and ready for our families. This Thanksgiving need is just as great this year as it has been in the past several, and our hope and prayers are that no one will be going to bed hungry on Thanksgiving night, or any other night of the year.

OUR HEARTFELT THANKS

Jayne Schrader has been a member since her Mom & Dad moved their family from Parma to North Canton. She and Mike have raised their family here; and now, their children, Adam (& Rhonda) Schrader, Renee (& Josh) Keith, are beginning their families here, too. Adam & Rhonda welcomed Savannah Mae into this world on August 26th. Renee & Josh are expecting in December. Jayne could not be happier. To celebrate, she has decided to clear her schedule and devote all the time she needs to becoming a full-time grandmother.

People who know Jayne know that she has always valued family above all else, and for good reason: she has a great family! We have enjoyed the work she has done for the last couple of years as Church Office Secretary. More importantly, she has enjoyed serving in this way – learning about the Craft Show, helping to lead our Food Pantry ministry through an important transition, talking with members about upcoming meetings, family plans, the flower schedule, hospital stays, all those things that involve the church in the lives of our members.

We knew going in that Jayne would be exceptional at this job; and she was all that, and much, much more. Her love for the church, for her Lord, and for the people of God has been evident in everything she’s done. Her service in the Church Office has been a gift from above. She has done nothing but honor the responsibilities assigned her and exceed our highest hopes. Now that she turns her attention to her family, we look forward to the many ways she will continue to join in the mission of our church and the life of our church family. Yes, we’ll truly miss her in the office; but we thank God that she remains a part of our congregational life.

THANK YOU'S & MORE

Dear Zion Church Members,

Thank you for the get well greetings sent my way when I was ill. Also, thanks to Pastor Sherwindt for his prayers and visit while I was hospitalized. It is much appreciated.

*Sincerely,
Susan Geib*

P.S. By the way, didn't we have great fun at the *End-of-the-Summer* Party! Great food! Loved that band! Can't wait until next year!

October 31, 1517: Luther posts *95 Theses* to the doors of All Saints' Church in Wittenberg on All Hallows Eve, otherwise known as Halloween, the eve before All Saints Day. We celebrate Lutheranism's 495th Anniversary!

REFORMATION NEWS

On the morning of *Sunday, October 28th*, Zion will celebrate the Festival of the Reformation. Expect great hymns, profound readings, powerful preaching, exceptional music. Between the services in Luther Hall we will review the great heritage with which we have been blessed as Lutherans. Then, on the actual day that commemorates the event of the Reformation, *October 31st*, we will have a dinner, a meeting, and a party. The party is our Sunday School Halloween Party. The dinner is our usual way of beginning the business of our Congregational Meeting with the fellowship of a delicious meal. Plan to join us as we address issues related to the Internship Program and our 2013 Budget.

Getting back to the Sunday we celebrate the Reformation, the Committee for Ecumenical Concerns of the Northeastern Ohio Synod has planned a *Lutheran-Catholic Covenant Celebration* at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church on the corner of 55th and Middlebranch Road. Bishop George Murry, the Catholic Diocese, and Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Northeastern Ohio Synod, ELCA, will join us, along with special speakers, Dr. Mark Allan Powell of Trinity Lutheran Seminary and Dr. George Smiga of St. Mary's Seminary. It begins at 2:00 p.m., ending with Evening Prayer at 5:30 p.m., and common meal at 6:15 p.m. Again, that's Sunday, October 28th, 2012.

If you haven't quite had your fill of events commemorating the Reformation, St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Minerva is hosting the 27th Annual Reformation Celebration, which features the Rev. Dr. Lisa Dahill, Associate Professor of Worship and Spirituality at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, as the Guest Preacher. The service begins at 7:00 p.m., includes the Eucharist, and concludes with a light reception. Make it a perfect trifecta!

