

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR:

April was a month that brought good news and bad. The good news, of course, begins with the Resurrection, which was the focus of worship all month long, and will lead to a very busy month of May, which will celebrate Mother's Day, and our extravagant breakfast, along with Pentecost, and the Rite of Confirmation, followed by Holy Trinity and the final, farewell Sunday for the choral year. In addition to this great worship news, Early Bird Giving saw a repeat of last year's extraordinary turnaround from a five-figure deficit to a surplus heading into April and continuing into May. As with last year's great record of giving, we will enter May with a healthy surplus, which is always good news for a generous people giving generously. We remain confident that whatever the challenge our Lord places before us, we have the gifts and good will to rise to the challenge.

Earlier this month we learned that Trinity Lutheran Seminary will not be using us as a host congregation with the Internship Program this year. No explanation was given, other than the obvious fact that there were more willing congregations than available seminarians. That is a fact of life at all of our seminaries. The application process led to a couple of interviews that fed our optimism about a possible placement. In fact, the application process inspired a good deal of thought and planning that focused on improving what we're doing and how we're doing with youth and family ministries. We've got lots of faithful members who have been investing their time and talents in creating as engaging a program as we can; but we feel like we're falling behind when compared with our past and to our neighbors.

The Internship Committee led a workshop at the March Council Meeting to introduce us to the challenges we face. It became clear that we had a lot of work left to do in trying to see the connection between the commitments we'd like to make and the results we'd like to enjoy. The Internship Committee met one more time in April to double up on our dedication to improving our youth and family ministries, while also looking ahead to next year as what we hope will be *The Year of the Intern*. In the end, and along the way, it is important to own up to the reality that in order to make full use of the time and talents an Intern represents, we have got to know what we need to do to succeed in this area where every congregation is trying to enjoy success. That's what we'll be exploring in May as we plan for a congregational workshop in June. Stay tuned for more information as it unfolds.

In the meantime, it's May, and that means it's time for our 11th Annual Mother's Day Breakfast on May 12th, and then the Rite of Confirmation on the Festival of Pentecost, which is May 19th, and then a temporary farewell to the Senior Choir on Holy Trinity Sunday, which is May 26th. This is just a "temporary" farewell because the choir will be back on June 16th, not only to celebrate Father's Day, but also to join with the choir of Zion United Church of Christ, for the first of what we hope will be many shared bicentennial events, this one a celebration of joint choirs singing an anthem written and arranged by members of Zion United Church of Christ. The joint choir will perform at our 8:00 a.m. service on June 16th, and also at the 10:15 a.m. service at Zion United Church of Christ. It should be a great day – and a great weekend – with our delicious Father's Day Weekend Prime Rib Dinner on Saturday, June 15th, another shared bicentennial event involving the two Zions that began together on June 14, 1814.

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

Our meeting in April occurred with the tax deadline of April 15 looming, but still Dave Palumbo was able to provide a Treasurer’s Report filled with the good news that made up our first quarter and the month of March. Council members on hand for the meeting were Lorin Beaber, Vicki Givler, Beth Shaheen, Cathy Harvey, Juanita Cignetti, and Pastor Sherwindt. We began promptly at 7:00 p.m., and adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Our financial facts for March were strong, resulting with our third consecutive monthly surplus this year. Income was very strong, given the inclusion of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter in March. Winter-related expenses began to back off, which is normal for the year. We are doing well in saving where we can, while maintaining healthy commitments to property care and mission support. Our partnership with the Northeastern Ohio Synod remains strong, as do the balances in funds that support ministries like Food Pantry & Clothing Closet, various property renovation projects, youth programming, and the like. We are really in good shape thanks to your generosity.

| <u>ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS FOR MARCH</u> | |
|---|------------------|
| March Income | 25,223.98 |
| March Expenses | <u>24,953.29</u> |
| March Surplus | 270.69 |
| Income through March | 62,789.84 |
| Expenses through March | <u>62,215.90</u> |
| 2013 YTD Surplus | 573.94 |
| Our Food Pantry Fund | \$4,843.55 |
| Internship Outreach Fund | \$4,375.99 |
| Zion’s Youth Fund | \$7,536.60 |
| 2013 Advanced Giving | \$7,450.00 |
| <i>We thank you for your generous support!</i> | |

MORE COUNCIL NEWS

Property Ministry, Todd Elsass: Most of our attention this past month has been on the parsonage, with Carl Geib and Bob Lancashire taking the lead in replacing the floor in the main floor bathroom, not just the linoleum surface, but the floor board underneath! It turned out to be quite a job; and the addition of a woman’s touch, with Linda Lancashire and Carol Rossbach helping with the choice and installation of new tile to replace the cracking linoleum, everything turned out perfectly.

Moving from across the parking lot into the southwest corner of our building, some may have noticed that Senior Independence has taken the initiative (after consulting with us) to do some redecorating of the space they rent, adding a coat of paint (or two) to their corner office, the entrance hallway, and their large meeting room. New window treatments are on order, and they have new furniture in mind. They’ve done a really nice job. If you look closely at the painting of Jesus, our good shepherd, watching over them (and us), you might catch a glimpse of approval in his eyes. Check it out.

| <u>ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS FOR APRIL</u> | |
|---|------------------|
| April Income | 16,885.02 |
| April Expenses | <u>16,761.24</u> |
| April Surplus | 123.78 |
| Income through April | 79,674.86 |
| Expenses through April | <u>78,977.14</u> |
| 2013 YTD Surplus | 697.72 |
| Our Food Pantry Fund | \$5,212.30 |
| Internship Outreach Fund | \$4,721.32 |
| Zion’s Youth Fund | \$6,979.70 |
| 2013 Advanced Giving | \$7,450.00 |
| <i>We thank you for your generous support!</i> | |

MORE COUNCIL NEWS

Caring Ministry, Cathy Harvey: With her new team working like clockwork alongside all of our experienced Food Pantry Crew members, which thins out in number during the winter months as snowbirds take in the sun and fun of Florida, the food pantry portion our *Food Pantry & Clothing Closet* ministry continues to do great work ... even when the number of families served jumps from 50 to 63! That was our experience when the first warm Tuesday arrived at the end of March. March did, indeed, come in like a lion, and with its going out like a lamb, the number of families seeking our help surprised us. Fortunately, between all the fresh produce made available through the Akron Canton Foodbank on our early morning run that day, with freezers packed with all sorts of baked goods made available through the generosity of Giant Eagle on the Strip, and shelves filled due to the support of members, friends, and neighboring North Canton congregations, we had plenty of extras on hand for everyone. We extend our thanks to all. Extending this help to neighbors in need really is a community effort. Speaking of this community effort, the National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive is set for Saturday, May 11th. As a satellite of the Stark County Hunger Task Force, our food pantry will share in the food collected by our local post office.

Bicentennial Task Force: The first big event to celebrate Zion's Bicentennial Anniversary is set for the day that begins our 200th year with the sister church that shares this founding date. We will co-host a Father's Day Weekend Prime Rib Dinner here at Zion on Saturday, June 15th. Dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m., with a program to follow in the Sanctuary.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

THE 2013 ELECTIONS AT ZION: The date for the Congregational Meeting has been set for Wednesday, June 5th. We will begin with dinner, prepared and served by the Church Council, at 6:15 p.m., with our meeting to follow in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. Our June 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. If you are willing to serve as a member of Church Council, as a Deacon, or Trustee, please let Brian Milek (Vice-President) or Pastor Sherwindt know of your interest.

2013 Northeastern Ohio Synod Assembly is set for Friday and Saturday, May 31st – June 1st, at the John S. Knight Center in Akron. This year's theme is *Always Being Made New: 25 Years Together in Christ*. The focus of the Assembly will deal with the election (or re-election) of our Synod's Bishop, while also taking time to celebrate our 25th Anniversary as the ELCA.

Learning Ministry, Renee Keith: Now that the Easter play is past, our Sunday School continues with its regular classroom schedule and lessons for the rest of the program year, which ends with a party on June 2nd. On May 19th, the Festival of Pentecost (wear red), we will celebrate the Rite of Confirmation for Jaret Beaber, Eric Dague, Nathan Fox, and Carley Frank at the 10:30 a.m. service. These young members have completed our two-year Confirmation Program under the direction of Catechist Renee Keith. Learn more about our Confirmands with the introductions Renee has provided on pages 6 & 7 of this newsletter.

GREAT NEWS FROM ZION'S SUNDAY SCHOOL



Happy Birthday to:

UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Thursday, May 9th: Confirmation Dinner on Ascension Day! Meet at the Church at 6 p.m.

Mother's Day, May 12: Zion's Mother's Day Breakfast during the Sunday School Hour

Mother's Day, May 12: Special Program for Mothers from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, May 19th: The Festival of Pentecost and the Rite of Confirmation: Wear Red!

Sunday, June 2nd: The Last Sunday of the 2012-13 Sunday School Year: Let's have fun!

Sunday, September 8th: We kick off the 2013-14 Sunday School Year with Rally Day!

Sunday, September 15th: Sunday School Classes for All Ages Begins: Bring a Friend!

PRE-KINDERGARTEN THRU THE SIXTH GRADE

During the four Sundays in May and the first Sunday in June the children will finish up their classroom studies for this year. There will be no Sunday School on Mother's Day, May 12th, 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.

Sunday, June 2nd, will be our last day of class for the 2012-13 Sunday School Year. We will have a celebration with food, games, and fun to mark the end of a great year of lessons and activities. We will once again take a break this summer from Sunday School, and start up in September when we kick off the Sunday School year with Rally Day on Sunday, September 8th, 2013, and classes will begin again on Sunday, September 15th. We've already begun looking into some new programs and curriculum, and we are very excited about next year's program!

WE'VE GOT A DATE FOR THE 2013 YOUTH MISSIONS CRAFT SHOW!

The *Youth Missions Craft Show & Oktoberfest* is on the calendar for *Saturday, October 19th*, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Based on last year's success, we are looking forward to renting more than 60 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 *Tenth Annual Youth Missions Craft Show & Oktoberfest*. That's *Saturday, October 19th*.

HEARTFELT THANKS FROM BOY SCOUT TROOP 10

We moved the date from February 11th to April 20th, and still it snowed! But just like last year, folks made the trip to Zion to support the Dague family and Boy Scout Troop 10 with hearty appetites and generous contributions. On behalf of Troup 10, the Dague family thanks all who were among the many diners on hand to enjoy the food, the service, and the satisfaction of helping others. The turnout was great; your generosity incredible. Thank you, thank you, thank you to all!



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

**OUR 11TH ANNUAL
MOTHER'S DAY
BREAKFAST:**

**SUNDAY, MAY 12TH
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 are busy making plans for this year's Mother's Day Breakfast. Once again, we will have six teams working on our plans for the Mother's Day Breakfast: the kitchen crew, set-up and clean-up, a fresh fruit salad team, along with breads and drinks. 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. 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.

Just in case you wanted to know, Mother's Day started out as *Mothering Day* in England in the 1600's, with flowers used as a traditional way to celebrate it. Giving *roses* for Mother's Day has been fairly common in the United States since its debut in the early 1900's. There are different meanings in giving roses, related to color and number. Giving a mother *red roses* symbolizes grace, beauty, love and respect; and so the perfect complement is giving *a single red rose*, which says, "I love you." Celebrating the gift God has given with mothers by giving roses might not seem like much at the time, but women will appreciate the gesture and the meaning behind it.

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 25th***, which is the Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend. We'll want to clean up the grounds and spread lots and lots of mulch to highlight the red geraniums left over from Pentecost that faithful volunteers just planted. 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.

THE WOMEN OF ZION

Canton-Massillon Cluster Spring Gathering:

We met at 9:00 a.m. for registration and coffee. Attending from Zion were Joyce Gibeaut, Mabel Kolarik, Kay Davis, Edna Smith, Carol Snyder, and Carol Rossbach. Words of welcome were offered by Amy White, Cluster President, and Ellen Rogers, Faith Lutheran Women's Co-Chair. Our devotions were led by Pastor Sue Rodgers, of Israel Lutheran Church.

Our offering of \$461 was divided between NEOSWO and the cost of shipment for the Lutheran World Relief kits. IN KIND gifts of baby quilts, lap robes and health kits were brought by the various churches, with a prayer and blessing by Carol Darcy. We collected 25 health kits and 65 lap robes.

Pastor Elaina Styblo (Faith Lutheran Church in Massillon) led a very interesting Bible study on the different characteristics of God, as illustrated by fire in the Bible. Sometimes the fire is literal; sometimes spiritual. Sometimes fire is used as correction; sometimes as destruction. Sometimes the fire is consuming; sometimes it is not.

After reports by the various officers of the cluster, Sally McGraw led our group in some special music. We sang the "Senior Version" of *Jesus Loves Me*, along with some other comical songs. We then went into their Fellowship Hall, where various activities were set up for us: knotting quilts, a cross necklace, sachet bags to make for St. Luke residents. Kristie Woods, of St. Luke's Lutheran Community, led the table prayer, and we had a delicious lunch of chicken salad, croissants, veggie chips and edible flowers as a garnish, followed by delicious cake also with edible flowers. After lunch, we closed with a hymn and the Lord's Prayer, led by Pastor Sue Rodgers.

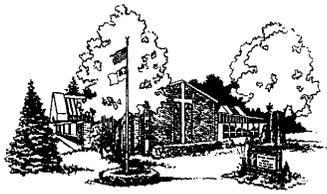
WOMEN'S NEWS & MORE

Time to Go – Celebrating the Ascension of

Our Lord as a Call to Mission: Our theme verse is Acts 1:6: "When they came together, they asked him 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?'"

Jesus and the disciples had different views of what it would mean to establish the kingdom. Two thousand years later the church has turned out to be the kind of community that none had imagined, and that the world had never seen. We are a glimpse of the kingdom. Ascension, Pentecost, the gifts of the Spirit, and the Great Commission: these are great themes for exciting times. Join the Women of Zion on **Tuesday, May 21**, in the Resource Center at 9:30 a.m. to find out more.

Zion's Comfort Givers meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, which will be May 9 & 23, at 9:30 a.m. in Luther Hall. You are invited to join us. You'll be surprised by how comfortable it can be and how much fun it will be to sew with us.



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

349 Lindy Lane Ave NW
North Canton, OH 44720

The Rev. Mark Sherwindt
Senior Pastor

Lorin Beaber,
Zion's President

Frederick Locker,
Senior Choir Director

Suzanne Walters,
Praise Team Leader

Phil Lehenbauer,
Church Organist

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, JUNE 5, 2013

Dear Family of Zion:

This is a reminder of our Congregational Meeting on **Wednesday, June 5, 2013**, 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 June meeting will remain on that track. We have moved it into June in order 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, June 5**, beginning with dinner at 6:15 p.m.

God's peace be with you,
Lorin H. Beaber, III
Church Council President

Congregational Dinner, 6:15 pm Congregational Meeting, 7:00 pm