

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR:

We begin our two hundredth year as a congregational family this month. While anniversary dates are usually remembered at the end of the year, the entire year beginning June 15th is our two hundredth year. That's why it is so exciting to be joining with Zion United Church of Christ for a Bicentennial Prime Rib Dinner here at Zion on the Saturday evening of June 15th, which will be followed by combined choirs at worship on Sunday, June 16th. The Prime Rib Dinner is a longstanding favorite for our congregation. The Singing Chef has prepared some of the best prime rib I've ever eaten at these feasts that celebrate fathers on the Saturday of Father's Day Weekend. This year we add *Desserts by Tony* to a fabulous menu. Tony Niesz has used our Sunday evening Advent and Lenten dinners to build a great reputation for exquisite cheese cake desserts. They will be a part of this year's Prime Rib Dinner, along with chicken and vegetarian entrees as options, which will be joined again by baked potatoes, a vegetable medley, rolls, and complimentary wine for all.

Can you believe that all this is yours for the low, low price of \$20.00 per person? It's absurd! It's crazy! It would be a crime, were it not for the generosity of the Singing Chef, his *patissier* (pastry chef), kitchen crew and merry helpers, all of whom offer this delicious dinner as a labor of love for our Zion family. This year we add the other Zion, our bicentennial partners from Zion United Church of Christ, who started with us in a log cabin church on Pittsburg Road in what is now North Canton Cemetery. All of the proceeds (that exceed our expenses) will help to fund our Bicentennial Anniversary celebrations as we look forward to an exciting year for both Zions. Following dinner on June 15th, we will move over to the Sanctuary and spend a little time recalling our respective histories, while also enjoying some good music, great stories, lots of laughs, and the satisfaction of knowing that God has richly blessed our two Zions with uniquely irreplaceable histories of worship and service.

Our joint celebration continues with worship the next day. We encourage all of our members and friends to join us here at Zion for the 8:00 a.m. service, when we will join forces with Zion United Church of Christ and a combined choir to offer our praises to the God who has blessed us and called us. The service will be filled with lots of special music, and a guest preacher, too, the Rev. Eli Klingensmith, Senior Pastor at Zion United Church of Christ. I'm sure it will be a great message, a great service, and a great Sunday, to cap off a great weekend. We'll have our Senior Choir, their Chancel Choir, and our Praise Team, too! It should be a powerful service, and we would like our pews filled to welcome our visitors from Zion United Church of Christ. If you are unable to join us here at 8:00 a.m., then join our Senior Choir, the Praise Team, and a combined choir at Zion United Church of Christ for their 10:15 a.m. service. Let's begin our two hundredth year with the people who helped get this party started way back in 1814.

On June 14th, 1814, two immigrant communities of German Evangelicals, one Reformed and the other Lutheran, were blessed to share a common beginning grounded in the gospel of God's grace as the foundation of our faith and life. Let's lay hold of the opportunity to celebrate this shared past precisely because both of our congregations continue to thrive two hundred years later. Just think of all the great hymns we'll sing. Imagine the beautiful music we'll enjoy. There is so much to celebrate. Be sure to join us. You'll be glad you did, and so will we.

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

Our May meeting continued our pattern of exceptional attendance: Lorin Beaber, Brian Milek, Juanita Cignetti, Dave Palumbo, Cathy Harvey, Dale Jacobs, Vicki Givler, Todd Elsass, Beth Shaheen, Renee Keith, and Pastor Sherwindt. Our primary business involved preparing for our Congregational Meeting, which was set for Wednesday, June 5, 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. *Early Bird Giving* made another monthly surplus possible, \$123.78 for April, with four consecutive monthly surpluses bringing our total year-to-date surplus to \$697.72. While all the figures for May have not yet been processed, it looks like we will enjoy yet another monthly surplus in May. We thank you for your generous support.

ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS FOR APRIL

April Income	\$16,885.02
April Expenses	<u>\$16,761.24</u>
April Surplus	\$ 123.78
Income through April	\$79,674.86
Expenses thru April	<u>\$78,977.14</u>
2013 YTD Surplus	\$ 697.72
The Food Pantry Fund	\$ 5,212.30
Zion’s Youth Fund	\$ 6,979.70

As can be seen from the figures above, we have enjoyed healthy giving in all areas of ministry, with the Operating Budget, Zion’s Food Pantry, and all of our special funds enjoying record balances. This is also true of the financial assets held at Merrill Lynch.

Thank you for your generous support!

NEWS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Many of you may be aware that there has been talk that my family and I might be moving to Houston, Texas. This talk was generated by Jaret and Grant, whom we’ve been preparing for the possibility that we would be relocating. And earlier this month I received the official transfer to my company’s Houston office effective July 1, 2013. Needless to say, this has brought a wide range of emotions to me and my family.

It is a busy time for us, no doubt, with cleaning and preparing a house to sell, while thinking about where we will live in Houston and where we will send our kids to school. Personally, my job will be completely different in the Houston office; so this brings some trepidation as well. Oh, and did I mention thinking about finding a new church and church family??

I’ve found time to do some reflecting recently about the last 14 years we’ve spent at Zion Lutheran Church with this fantastic congregation. Corey and now Jaret were confirmed here. Grant was baptized here. Tina and I have served on Council, and as a Trustee, or Deacon, or Sunday School teacher, or other roles for many of these years. And we’ve participated in many services and events, and to say that we will miss these is a huge understatement. But more importantly, we will miss YOU, the people of Zion. We’ve enjoyed serving with you in God’s mission, and we pray that you will continue the legacy here at Zion not only to the Bicentennial next year, but well beyond. We look forward to “visiting” everyone when we come back into town in the future.

May the Lord’s Peace and Grace be with you always!!!

Lorin Beaber and Family

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Cathy Harvey, our Caring Ministry Elder, continues to express appreciation for all the help that keeps the ministries of our Food Pantry & Clothing Closet humming along. In addition to our faithful Food Pantry Crew, which now includes recently returned snowbirds from Florida, we have lots of folks to thank for a great month of May, including Letter Carriers with the Post Office for a great food drive on Saturday, May 11th. Our shelves were stocked to overflowing, thanks to their annual food drive, and to more than enough helpers on hand to deliver the food from the Post Office to our Food Pantry.

We also want to thank Stephanie Wolf and the 6th Graders of Girl Scout Troop #546 for the donation of quite a number of boxes of Girl Scout cookies, which we shared with the families we serve through our Food Pantry. Speaking of Girl Scout Cookies, huge thanks are also in order to Connie Frank and Girl Scout Troop #529 for their donation of these delicious treats. Needless to say, our food pantry families loved the special touch provided by these extra treats.

It's time to think about scheduling our annual Training Session for Food Safety and Civil Rights. It is very important as we work with partners like the Stark County Hunger Task Force and the Akron-Canton Regional Food-bank that we follow protocol with matters having to do with food safety, and that we honor the God-given sanctity of human life by respecting the civil rights of those whom we are privileged to serve. These ministries are intended to serve as a witness to our love of Christ; but the higher calling of love always honors what simple justice requires. We have scheduled this Training Session for the morning of Tuesday, June 18, at 8:30 a.m. We hope this works for all involved.

THE WOMEN OF ZION

The *Women's Monthly Bible* Study starts a new course in June, *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly*. Session 1 is entitled *Hungry Hearts*, and focuses on the feeding of the multitudes miracle in Matthew 14:13-16. Audrey Novak Riley asks us to wonder how the disciples felt when, after Jesus looked out over the vast hungry crowd that had gathered to listen to him, he turned to his disciples and said, "You feed them!" It was a daunting task back then, and it is quite a responsibility still today. This becomes a good time to thank God and the good people at Zion for helping us feed the hungry through the ministry of our Food Pantry – and how timely that this should be our lesson on the same morning that Zion offers our Annual Training Session for maintaining Food Safety and respecting Civil Rights! Feel free to join us as we meet on the third Tuesday, June 18th, in the Resource Center at 9:30 a.m. That's June 18th, 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 13th and 27th. Quilting tables and sewing machines are set up in Luther Hall, where we begin at 9:30 a.m. 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* has been cancelled. Schedules didn't seem to allow for a good date in June. We'll just go to Zion's Prime Rib Dinner on June 15th as a way of celebrating the ministry we do and the community we serve. An update meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 10th. We will share instructions on care for the recently purchased Christ Candle. It uses oil rather than wax, which we hope will be easier to maintain. Enjoy your summer!

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 eleventh 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 everyone who helped with the morning.

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, we are still getting organized as we look ahead to the Bicentennial event of our *Prime Rib Dinner*. The menu, as you can tell from the next column, looks spectacular, and it is! Everything will be GREAT. As the ticket says "*A Great Dinner, for a Great Price, for a Great Cause.*" Please join us.

In the meantime, we'd like to thank all the folks who joined us for our *Spread the Mulch Day* on the Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend. There are lots of people who help with the upkeep outside: Ruth & Verle Elsass, Gail Vogt, Faye Shankle, Todd Elsass, Carl Geib, Jayne Schrader, Renee Keith, Carol Rossbach, Chuck Danner, Adam Schrader. As we look ahead to the growing season this summer, let me put it as simply as I can, "*If you like to weed, we've got the need!*"

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

A BICENTENNIAL EVENT "A TALE OF TWO ZIONS"

*You Are Invited to Enjoy an
Evening of Dining Excellence*

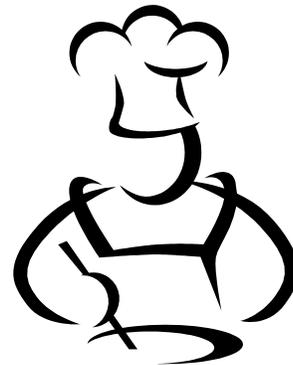
Our Prime Rib Dinner Saturday, June 15, 6 p.m.

*Delicious Herb-Crusted Prime Rib
with Chicken also available,
and a Vegetarian option, too!*

*The Best Idaho Baked Potatoes
Rolls and a Vegetables Medley*

*Complimentary Wine, Soft drinks,
Coffee, and Bottled Water, too*

*And What Better Way to Put the
Finishing Touch on a Great Meal
than to Offer Desserts by Tony!*



IT DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER THAN THIS!

GREAT NEWS FROM ZION'S SUNDAY SCHOOL



Happy Birthday to:

UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Sunday, June 2: The last day of the 2012-2013 Sunday School Year: Party at 9:15 a.m.

Sunday, September 8: This is a Big Day at Zion: It's Rally Day for the Sunday School

Sunday, September 15: Classes for the New Sunday School Year Begin Today at Zion

SUNDAY SCHOOL: PRE-K THROUGH SIXTH GRADE

Sunday, June 2nd, 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 for our children this summer.* We will start up again in September when we kick off the Sunday School year with Rally Day on Sunday, September 8th, 2013, and classes will start up again on Sunday, September 15th.



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.

YOUTH IN THE BUILDING! Youth and chaperones, 20 of the former and 5 of the latter, will be driving in from Providence Catholic High School in New Lenox, Illinois to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Stark & Carroll Counties. We've invited them to use our gym from Sunday evening, June 9th, through Friday, June 14th, and make themselves at home – as long as making themselves at home means leaving everything cleaner than when they arrived!

CONGRATULATIONS, MATT!

Matthew John Slease was baptized at Zion in 1988. Pastor Lutz presided. Matt celebrated his confirmation with Pastor Brigham, just before my tenure began. I've been with Matt at Winter Gatherings, overnights, car washes and workdays. He graduated from GlenOak High School in 2006. But this is much, much bigger than that. Matt went on to receive an Associates Degree in Automotive Technology from Stark State in 2008. He had a full-time job with Lavery Automotive in Alliance, where he continues to work and is employed as the manager of the body shop.

Matt knew that a Bachelor's Degree was in his future, and he was admitted to the School of Business Administration at Kent State University, with a major focus in Finance. He started at the Stark Campus, and with a full-time job during the day, he had to do everything with night classes. Kent State required that the last two years of classes be taken at the Main Campus in Kent, which added travel and time to an already busy schedule. On May 11th, Matt turned the tassel on his graduation cap, earning the Bachelor's that has been a long time coming.

Investments, futures, options, financial management, commercial banks, international business: Matt now knows it all, while still holding down his job as the manager of the body shop at Lavery Chevrolet. Given the times, sometimes having a job is better than having a field. But Matt's perseverance bodes well for doors opening and opportunities coming his way. Fortunately for all of us at Zion, we will continue to see (and hear) Matt on Sunday mornings as the drummer with the Praise Team at the 10:30 a.m. service. To celebrate his graduation, Matt recently bought a house in Canton at 1625 49th Street (44709). Congratulations, Matt. Well done.

2013 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The Northeastern Ohio Synod Assembly: Pastor Sherwindt, Carol Rossbach, and Chuck Danner were our voting delegates at the Assembly, which was held at the John S. Knight Convention Center in Akron on Friday, May 31, and Saturday, June 1. This year's theme was *Always Being Made New, 25 Years Together in Christ*, a reference to our 25th Anniversary as the ELCA. Our major item of business focused on re-electing our Synod Bishop. We began the process of assembling names for an ecclesiastical ballot on Sunday, March 3rd, when delegates from every congregation in the Synod were invited to nominate candidates from among rostered leaders. The first official ballot was cast at the Synod Assembly on Friday morning, with 322 of 427 votes needed to elect, a 75% threshold. Bishop Elizabeth Eaton received 314 votes; 18 other candidates shared the remaining 113 votes cast. The second ballot was Friday afternoon, with the 75% threshold still in place. Bishop Eaton received 357 votes, signaling (without the white smoke) that she was re-elected to her second term as Bishop of the Northeastern Ohio Synod.

Another item of note was the good news that our Synod has now raised over \$252,000 in support of the *ELCA Malaria Campaign*. We were the fourth Synod to reach and exceed our goal. In just two years since the campaign began, the fatality rate for malaria-related deaths has been reduced from a child dying every 45 seconds to one every 60 seconds, a 33% reduction in malaria-related deaths.

The Synod has begun expanding the reach of *Journey Forward*, "a data-gathering, asset-mapping, community-engaging strategic planning bonanza", which hopes to help "equip congregations to be viable, vital, vibrant, visible, sustainable, and relevant."

IMPORTANT MEETINGS

Zion's Congregational Meeting is set for Wednesday evening, June 5th. We will begin with a light but delicious dinner at 6:15 p.m. in Memorial Hall. Dale Jacobs will lead the Council's efforts in preparing dinner. Our meeting follows in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. This June meeting will focus on the election of members to serve with Church Council, the Deacons, and our Trustees. Terms are two years in length, with a limit of serving two consecutive two-year terms. Council seats that are scheduled for this election include Vice-President, Treasurer, Learning Ministry, Property Ministry, Witness Ministry, and Worship Ministry. Presently, Brian Milek serves as Vice-President and can run again. Dave Palumbo serves as Treasurer and can run again. Renee Keith serves as Learning Ministry Elder and can run again. Todd Elsass serves as Property Ministry Elder and can run again. Dale Jacobs will finish his second consecutive term as Worship Ministry Elder, and we thank him for his service. The Witness Ministry seat is open and needs to be filled. The Trustees oversee the care of Zion's property. The Deacons open and close the church on Sunday mornings, count the offerings, and make bank deposits. If you are interested in serving in any of these ways, please let Brian Milek (Vice-President) or Pastor Sherwindt know. We are grateful to God for all who are willing to serve in any and all of these capacities.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will host a Congregational Advocates Training on Saturday, June 8th, at the Golden Corral Restaurant at 8:30 a.m. Our meeting will begin with a breakfast buffet compliments of the Stark County Chapter. Also, we would like to thank Thrivent for the Confirmation Crosses and Baptismal Medallions that help us celebrate these events with our church family.

THANK YOU'S AND MORE

Dear Pastor Sherwindt and our Zion family,

It was great to see Gert & Jim Meyer's names mentioned in a recent sermon. It touched our hearts, as did they, since they were such wonderful parents, grandparents, in-laws, and just great people. They deserve to be together again. We will keep in contact to set a date for a Memorial Service.

*Thank you, again,
Judy (and Jan) Meyer*

Dear Pastor Sherwindt and Zion family,

Mom spoke so highly of you, and she loved telling the story of making you a cake, but your wife never getting any! She did love to bake! Thank you, again, for a very nice and personal service. You knew her so well, and she loved Zion so much.

*Thank you to all,
Carol Ann Huff*

OUR BICENTENNIAL: STARTING AT THE BEGINNING

There are many ways to tell the story of our history as Zion Lutheran Church. One way is to go back to the beginning, and before the beginning, on a timeline that recounts the presence of German immigrant families among the early settlers of our township who wanted to worship, but lacked a church and the resources to build one. That was back in 1806-1807, which, when you think about it, was just a few years after Ohio was admitted into the Union in 1803! Pastor John Stough provided a preaching presence (1806-1814). As the number of worshipers grew, their resolve remained strong; and by the close of 1813 the decision was made to build a church.

On January 14, 1814, German Evangelicals representing the Lutheran and Reformed traditions jointly purchased a tract of land on the line between Jackson and Plain townships, near the Summit County line, which is now located in the old section of North Canton Cemetery. A little log building used as a church and a schoolhouse was named Zion Church. The name of Wilhelm Kreichbaum has long been associated with *Old Zion Church*. On June 14th of 1814, Zion was formally established as a congregation, with Pastor Anton Weyer (1814-1826) overseeing the healthy growth of a congregation that eventually had to build a larger church to accommodate the blessings of increased size.

A building fund prospered, as members (and non-members) from Jackson, Plain, Lake, and Greene townships assisted, and following a season or more of ordinary religious enthusiasm, the two traditions sharing in the formation of old Zion Church succeeded in erecting one of the finest church edifices in the rural sections of Stark County. The cornerstone from the old log church was used for the new Zion Church on June 2nd, 1838. The Rev. J.J Fast, whose tenure lasted from 1827 to 1858, the longest of all of Zion's Pastors, presided over these three decades of blessing. It was time for looking forward not back, which was timely, since the log building known as Old Zion Church burned down in 1838 shortly after the new church was built.

The two Zions, one Lutheran and the other Reformed, shared that church until 1879, when the people of Zion who were of the Reformed tradition chose to erect their own house of worship in the center of New Berlin. That church was completed on October 9th, 1881. When Zion began, it was common that German immigrant families would combine their efforts in securing worship space, while actually worshiping separately on alternate Sundays. That was the practice for the Lutheran and Reformed families at Zion, as well as for Lutheran and Reformed families at Israel Lutheran Church down the road in Paris. Their shared German language and common immigrant roots provided strength in numbers as settlers changed Ohio from acknowledged wilderness to what is now known as *The Heart of It All*. It is humbling and fascinating to imagine the role that churches like Zion played in the transformation of Ohio and America.

From 1814 to the present, Zion has enjoyed the long and short tenures of thirty Pastors called to the ministry of Word and Sacrament. There were two buildings on Pittsburg Road, one on West Maple, and our present church here at the corner of Portage Street and Lindy Lane, with many improvements along the way. It's been a wonderful journey, with quite an extraordinary history. I hope that we are looking forward to learning more about our past during the course of our two hundredth year. Stay tuned; get excited; and remain engaged. There's more to come.

OUR BICENTENNIAL: BEGINNING WITH OUR MEMBERS

As I said, there are many ways to tell the story of Zion Lutheran Church. We can go back to the beginning, and before the beginning, on a timeline that includes the buildings we've built and the Pastors who have served us. We can read the record of Council Minutes, or trace our way through books that record Official Acts of Word and Sacrament. I'd like to start with a name that has never yet been used to begin the story of Zion's history. The name is Ellis Le Beau, who has the distinction of being our oldest, living lifelong member. Ellis was born to Otto and Grace Le Beau on March 23rd, 1924, and baptized here on November 24th. He was confirmed at Zion fifteen years later. He and Anna Mae were married at Zion on November 18, 1944; after the war they made their life here. Their children, David, Gordon, and Darlene, were baptized and confirmed here at Zion. As time passed, services of Christian Burial were held at Zion, too. Their family prospered in love and faith; and their church family grew beyond all expectations.

When Ellis was baptized, the Rev. Frederick R. Sutter (1918-1928) was the Pastor at Zion. When he was confirmed, Pastor Paul Rempke presided (1928-1934). When Ellis and Anna Mae were married, Pastor Howard Yeager had just left (1938-1944). Pastor Paul Daneker had not yet arrived (1945-1952). The Rev. Leonard Fritschel officiated. Pastor Daneker baptized David and Gordon. The Rev. R.E. LaFontaine (1952-1957) baptized Darlene. Pastor Ruth (1957-1968) was at the helm when David and Gordon were confirmed. Pastor Meuschke (1968-1984) was here when Darlene was confirmed, and returned during Pastor Lutz's tenure (1984-1997) for Darlene's wedding. He also presided at the funeral service of Ellis' Dad, Otto, in 1981. Pastor Lutz presided at the funeral service for Ellis' Mom, Grace, in 1987. I had the privilege of presiding when we mourned the loss while celebrating the life of Ellis' wife, Anna Mae, in 2009.

There are lots of familiar names woven into the narrative of Ellis Le Beau and his family tree. That's the way to tell the story of a congregation, not using an objective timeline, but with a personal touch and family memories that remind us of the wonderful gift God has given us with the history of this church family we call Zion. There are stories that recount shuffle board tiles and laying floors in what is now Luther Hall. Anna Mae was among the leaders of women active in the life of the church, and Ellis offered stalwart support at church by serving on Council, among the Deacons, and with the Trustees. Ellis' specialty was laying floors; and he was always available to help in efforts to keep costs down by doing the work of caring for church property ourselves. That's still our trademark secret to a healthy bottom line at Zion.

Nowadays Ellis resides at the Rose Lane Health Center. He's typically in good spirit, sitting in the great room, enjoying the company of family and winning rounds of canasta. He shakes his head when he thinks about the fact that during these "golden years" he's spent more time in the hospital than in the pew; but the memories formed around this church that have been woven into the narrative of his life will never dim, nor will his love for the Lord we worship in this church that now celebrates two hundred years of growing in love and service by grace. When you visit Ellis, always be ready for the gracious greeting he extends; but beware, as well, for the skillful card player, who at 89 years and then some, can still count to 5000, and will probably get there before you do. Ellis Le Beau, our oldest, living lifelong member: what a blessing he's been to us, his family, to God, and all of creation.