

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR:

Our trip to Prague, Austria, and the land of Luther was better than expected in every way, at every turn, with every place we visited! Whether it was the inviting warmth of the people of Prague, the tribute to music in Vienna, the awesome splendor of the Alps, or watching history come to life as we walked in the steps of Martin Luther in places like Wittenberg and Eisenach, and then learned more about Dietrich Bonhoeffer, where he lived in Berlin and where he died at Flossenbürg. We never expected all that we enjoyed. And it all began with landing in Prague, where we were welcomed by a hotel staff that picked us up at the airport and then introduced us to a sense of hospitality that grew warmer and more helpful with every day of our visit.

Prague has a rich history of its own filled with great glory and serious struggle. The Prague Castle captured all of this glory and more, with its extraordinary cathedral, impeccable palace, and small apartments that housed the likes of Franz Kafka. We crossed the Charles Bridge (named after King Charles IV) into the Old Town Square, with its historic cuckoo clock (*aka* the Prague Astronomical Clock installed in 1410), twenty-seven memorial white crosses signaling the final defeat of the Hussites at White Mountain and the execution of Protestant leaders as Counter Reformation crushed the presence of Protestants and the legacy of Reformer Jan Hus, who had been martyred back on July 6, 1415. The German Princes learned an important lesson from the burning at the stake of Jan Hus, which was to avoid private meetings with Catholic hierarchy if they wanted to keep their reformer alive!

There is actually a rich history connecting Jan Hus and Martin Luther, which becomes more apparent when you see how close in proximity everything is. These countries are both north of the Alps, which adds to the sense of distance that separated them from Rome. Jan Hus wanted worship in local language, local control over economic responsibilities, and a more egalitarian approach to political authority. What made these diverse interests religious was the overarching control the Catholic Church exerted in all these areas. Hus was martyred in 1415; but the Hussite Movement remained vibrant until its decisive defeat at White Mountain in 1620, when the family of Charles V in Spain (former Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire) created an alliance with the Hapsburgs in Vienna, the city that became the central site from which Counter Reformation turned the tide on this region that had embraced the Protestant Reformation.

By the time Luther arrived, this region of the world and this part of the church were ready for reform. The German Princes had learned from previous failures what was required to keep their hope for reform alive. When Luther was returning from answering to the Pope's representative in Worms, Frederick the Wise, Elector of Saxony, faked Luther's kidnapping and had him whisked away to Wartburg Castle. For ten months, Luther lived in secret at Wartburg Castle, translating the New Testament into German (without a library), with a bearded Luther traveling around *in cognito* as Squire George. While the name of the Czech reformer Jan Hus is rarely recalled by the successful reforms that followed among Lutherans, Reformed, and Anglican families of faith, it was a high point of our trip to stand in Prague's Old Town Square with this history remembered and honored.

Needless to say, history came alive for us in ways we had not anticipated, and in a context that was exceedingly hospitable, beautiful, and humbling. It was another trip of a lifetime. We could not have enjoyed ourselves more, and we hope you enjoy the pictures offered on the next page.

TRAVELING THROUGH THE CZECH REPUBLIC, AUSTRIA, AND GERMANY



Jan Hus Monument in Old Town Square



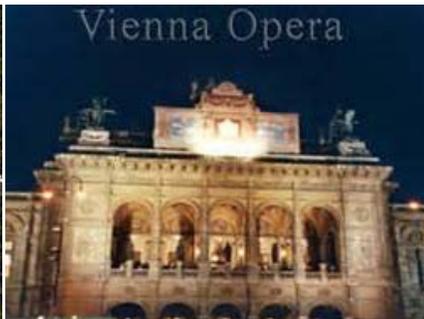
The Minute House in Old Town, Prague (The Childhood Home of Franz Kafka)



Old & New in Prague The Dancing House



St. Vitus Cathedral at Prague Castle



Classic Scenes from Vienna: Amadeus Mozart, the Vienna Opera House, Churches, and the Hapsburg Palace



Salzburg Castle and Hallstatt, Austria



Luther's Favorite Castle: Wartburg



Luther's Home: Eisenach



Luther's House in Wittenberg, Germany



Martin Luther and Katie Luther

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

Our Council Meeting in June enjoyed excellent attendance: Lorin Beaber, Brian Milek, Juanita Cignetti, Dave Palumbo, Cathy Harvey, Vicki Givler, Todd Elsass, Beth Shaheen, Renee Keith, Carol Rossbach, and Pastor Sherwindt. We welcomed newly elected Council members, thanked those who were ending their term with Council, and celebrated another successful Congregational Meeting on June 5th.

In his Treasurer’s Report Dave Palumbo provided more good news about our giving this year. We continued our streak of consecutive monthly surpluses, adding five to the twelve monthly surpluses we enjoyed last year. While monthly income was about average, expenses were lower than usual due both to favorable weather and to our continuing to function without being fully staffed in the Church Office.

ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS FOR MAY

May Income	\$17,200.17
May Expenses	<u>\$15,565.88</u>
May Surplus	\$ 1,634.29
Income through May	\$96,875.03
Expenses through May	<u>\$94,543.02</u>
2013 YTD Surplus	\$ 2,332.01
The Food Pantry Fund	\$ 5,112.83
Zion’s Youth Fund	\$ 6,804.60

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!

GREAT FINANCIAL NEWS

The month of June continued the great story of our financial strength and record of great giving. June was a month with 5 Sundays, which always makes coming up with a monthly surplus easier. However, with the Pastor’s vacation plans for June 23 and 30, the strength we exhibited in June is even more gratifying as we ended the first half of the year with a healthy record of giving. For that we thank you.

The Operating Budget is in great shape, and that’s good. Additionally, all of our special funds – the Food Pantry Fund, Youth Fund, Women of Zion Fund, HVAC Fund, our Advanced Giving, along with Undesignated Memorials & Gifts – all are well-funded with healthy balances and great support.

Part of the reason for this is that Council does a great job of looking for savings as we manage our expenses; but the bigger part of our success derives from the great job that the whole congregation does in offering your support. We are confident that we will be able to continue this story of strength and success during the summer; but we’ll need your help and support to make that happen.

ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS FOR JUNE

June Income	\$ 21,016.49
June Expenses	<u>\$ 20,624.57</u>
June Surplus	\$ 391.92
Income through June	\$117,891.52
Expenses through June	<u>\$115,167.59</u>
2013 YTD Surplus	\$ 2,723.93
The Food Pantry Fund	\$ 5,141.62
Zion’s Youth Fund	\$ 7,364.69

Thank you for your generous support!

GREAT NEWS FROM ZION'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Happy Birthday to:

UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Thursday, July 18: Please Try to Pre-Register for this summer's Vacation Bible School

Monday, July 22: *Take the Plunge (and learn about OBEDIENCE):* Registration at 9 a.m.

Tuesday, July 23: *Take the Plunge (and learn about WORSHIP):* Bring a T-Shirt Today

Wednesday, July 24: *Take the Plunge (and learn about COURAGE):* It's T-Shirt Day

Thursday, July 25: *Take the Plunge (and learn about FAITH):* Enjoy this evening, too!

Friday, July 26: *Take the Plunge (and learn about SERVICE):* It's Water Day Today!

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR PRE-K THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL

We are taking a summer break from Sunday School classes. This doesn't mean that we will not have an active Christian Education program for our kids this summer. Just take a look at what's coming with Vacation Bible School, and read more about it on the next page. After that, we'll start up again in September when we kick off the Sunday School year with Rally Day on Sunday, September 8th. Sunday School classes will start up again on Sunday, September 15th.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONTINUES FOR OUR ADULT CLASS

Our Lenten journey earlier this year embraced as our guide daily meditations offered by Dietrich Bonhoeffer – pastor, theologian, a laborer in the field, a martyr for the cause, a witness on earth and a saint in heaven. We learned about his work as a resister against Hitler's Nazi Movement and as an organizer of the Confessing Church in Germany. We listened to tapes, watched movies, and read his writings in an attempt to learn about this soft-spoken man whose faith, courage, and obedience continues to resonate with believers who want to learn more about *The Cost of Discipleship* and the blessings God has given with our *Life Together* as the church.

Bonhoeffer came alive for Marilyn and me as we visited sites throughout Berlin (and outside of Berlin), which told the story of his life and his death. We started in the home to which his family moved when he was eight and his father received an appointment to the Department of Neurology at the University of Berlin. We visited the church where Bonhoeffer was ordained, churches where he preached, and the parish where he taught Confirmation to inner-city youth. We saw the spot on the ground where once stood the building where the plot to create death camps was born. We saw the building where Bonhoeffer was taken for his interrogation when arrested in 1943. We didn't go to Tegel, which is still a prison; but we did go to Flossenbürg, the Concentration Camp where at the age of thirty-nine Bonhoeffer's life was ended by hanging on April 9, 1945, just weeks before Flossenbürg was liberated and the war won.

Join us in the Adult Sunday School Class, which meets in Luther Hall between the services on Sundays, when we'll share pictures and stories about a great trip to places that say so much about this man whose spirit still lives in a church striving to learn what it means to be faithful.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: TAKE THE PLUNGE & MAKE A SPLASH!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS RIGHT NOW
 JULY 22—26, MONDAY THRU FRIDAY
 EVERY DAY, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Our water park fun is about to begin! Join us: Monday through Friday, July 22 – 26, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., as we *TAKE THE PLUNGE AND MAKE A SPLASH WITH JESUS*. Our week-long adventure at the water park will teach five great “splash” points about plunging into the love of our Lord Jesus Christ. These are OBEDIENCE, WORSHIP, COURAGE, FAITH and SERVICE.

We will also enjoy this year’s mascot – JP Penguin – whose name is intended to remind us to Just Plunge! There will be great lessons, fantastic music, lots of games, delicious food, crafts, crafts, crafts, and service projects, too. We have planned a week of adventures with fun and learning where the kids will experience God’s lifesaving love. The Good News that we are offering this week of water park fun is, in itself, a miracle of God’s lifesaving love, as God’s people heard the call to serve and responded with faith and obedience!

Our Vacation Bible School program is designed for children from age 5 through to those who have completed 5th grade. Youth who have completed 6th grade and higher are invited to help during the week; and we have plenty of volunteer opportunities for helpers! So, let us know if you are willing to help. Registration packets are available in the Church Office. Please turn in your completed forms by **Thursday, July 18th**, in order to help us order sufficient supplies. We will still accept registrations during the week of VBS if space is available.

We have a busy week planned! We will get started on Monday with lots of fun and activities! This is also the day that we get everyone registered in Luther Hall. We also hope to have some special guests this year. Tuesday will be T-Shirt day at VBS. So, each child will need a white T-shirt with their name on the label, and we’ll need both here by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday. We’ll have more to say about Wednesday later. But on Thursday evening, it’s our *Ice Cream Social* here at the church at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to join us that evening for our Special VBS Program, which is followed by ice cream and fellowship. We will also have our *Quilt Raffle* that evening. That’s when a lucky winner gets to choose the quilt of their choice from all the comforters our quilters have made from the squares provided by kids from VBS. Finally, Friday will be a *Wet & Wild Day* and our *Water Park Celebration!* This will include water activities and fun games to celebrate our week of learning and service! The children will need their swim suits, towels, and don’t forget the sunscreen, all on Friday! Of course, we will also have lessons, crafts, music, games, service projects and lunch that day – and every day – as well!

We are all looking forward to a great week for our kids, our staff, and our parents, too, as we all learn about God’s promises and share in the response we offer with our faith and obedience, as well as courage, worship and service! Take the plunge! You’ll be glad you did, and so will we!

PLUNGE INTO SERVICE AT OUR WATER PARK ADVENTURE

We will again focus on service this year, which is a great tradition at Zion's Vacation Bible School. We have planned many service projects, some familiar and some different. The children will be invited to experience how important serving others and God is in their lives! We hope everyone will see that no matter how old we are, we can truly make a difference! We will be making that difference in many ways.



THE DAILY OFFERING: It has become an annual expectation that we will host a daily contest between the boys and girls, challenging each to collect more than the other. We like to stick with change, and steer clear of paper; but you would be surprised by the excitement that gathers around that morning gathering time when we collect the offering. In the end, everyone wins – the boys, the girls, and especially the recipient of the offering. This year's recipient will be divided between the ministry we support with our Food Pantry and another ministry, which the children will choose.

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

QUILT SQUARES: The children will again create quilt squares for Zion's Comfort Givers to sew into quilts for Lutheran World Relief. We will raffle one quilt on Thursday evening at the Ice Cream Social. Which quilt that is will be chosen by the winner! Tickets will be available during the week. As usual, it's 1 ticket for a dollar, or 6 tickets for \$5.00. Join us for all the fun!

DAILY PROJECTS: The children will work on a service project each day during the week. Some of these projects will connect us with kids all over the globe; and other projects will ask our kids to connect with the persons who live with us at home. We think that this is a healthy mix of helping neighbors far away and those who live right next door.

SCHOOL KITS: We'll be collecting items for school kits to help children in our community. Items needed are backpacks, paper, notebooks, folders, binders, glue, pencils, erasers, crayons, scissors, rulers, and markers. Please bring in any donations by the morning of Thursday, July 25th. If anyone in the congregation is interested in donating items for these school kits, please leave the items in the Church Office.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE FOR YOU: We are looking forward to a great week and hope you will join us! Again, we are in need of volunteers for the week. You are qualified to volunteer: we guarantee it! Please consider joining us one, two, or all five days. It truly is a rewarding and enjoyable experience, and you will be working with a great group of kids!

We've put out sign-up sheets for food and supplies in Luther Hall, and we have put out donation cans for those who are interested in helping. If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer, please feel free to call Debbie Fox (330-966-2433), or the Church Office (330-499-3909). As always, thank you for your great support!

BICENTENNIAL WEEKEND A HUGE SUCCESS!



Blair Woodside, Jr. welcomed us to an evening that was unforgettable. He was not there in person, but on the big screen in the Sanctuary in living color; and as usual, he offered some great reflections with words wisely chosen to speak with us about the meaning of sharing in a celebration that reminds us of the mystery and miracle that are ours with this gift we call the communion of the saints, the life of the Christian community, which for Zion has been the story of God's love and faithfulness alive among us for what is going on two hundred years.

The evening began, of course, with a great dinner, an unbelievably outstanding dinner. Between our two Zions, Zion United Church of Christ and Zion Lutheran, we sold over 175 tickets to our Bicentennial Dinner with a Bicentennial Program. There was time for wine before dinner, and many enjoyed this treat as we waited for everyone to arrive, and then for the chef to say, "Bon Appétit!" The Prime Rib was ready. The baked potato table was stocked with every imaginable topping. A vegetable medley complemented the main course. There was wine with dinner, and water, too. Chicken and vegetarian options were available, and that was new; but what was really different about this year's menu was that our Singing Chef, Dale Jacobs, was joined by our new Pastry Chef, Tony Niesz, and the specialty of his blue ribbon cheese cake.

Those who have been to our Prime Rib Dinners before know that there's nothing like it. There is no doubt that these dinners are a great deal for any price. But this year's addition was truly beyond belief, exceeding all expectations. Everyone is still raving about Tony's cheese cake; and the prime rib could not have been more tender, more tasty, or more enjoyable. The ticket said it all: *A Great Dinner for a Great Price to Support Two Great Congregations*. We received great support from our two Zions and we were able to raise a substantial amount for both Zions.

I'd like to say thank you to everyone who helped ... before, during, and after the dinner. First of all, I would like to thank the many members selling tickets, both those from the Bicentennial Task Force (Darlene Milavickas, Chuck Danner, Sue Heyard, Jim Fidler, Carol Rossbach, and Brian Walters), and those serving with the Church Council (Lorin Beaber, Brian Milek, Juanita Cignetti, Dave Palumbo, Cathy Harvey, Dale Jacobs, Beth Shaheen, Todd Elsass, Vicki Givler, and Renee Keith); and, of course, I'd like to thank everyone who bought and/or donated tickets. One-hundred-and-forty tickets sold: that's a lot of tickets and lots of support! Thank you to all.

I'd also like to thank the many persons who had a role in setting up, cleaning up, preparing the food, and serving it. So, thank you to Nick & Juanita Cignetti, Chuck Danner, Howard Dansizen, Jim Dansizen, Ken Elsass, Todd Elsass, Cathy Harvey, Dale Jacobs, Max Jacobs, Mabel Kolarik, Bob & Linda Lancashire, Darlene Milavickas, Tony Niesz, Carol Rossbach, Betty Tracy, Mark Votaw, and Richard Zumkehr. It is incredible what needs to be done to prepare a dinner like the one we enjoyed on June 15th; but thanks be to God, and to you, that we had so many members willing to help. And one final thank you to our Senior Choir, the Praise Team, our Praise Team Leader, and our Senior Choir Director. The effort you put forth and the enjoyment all received from worship offered to the praise of God's glory was deeply gratifying, the high point of a weekend celebrating the start of what will be a great bicentennial year.

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE CONFIRMANDS IN THIS PICTURE?



It is so great to go back in time and remember the world of yesteryear, the world we grew up in. This is especially true for those who enjoyed a childhood in the glory days of Zion and the city of North Canton. Those were the good old days, to be sure. The Colonel filled the pulpit. The Hoover Company solidified a strong economy, with stability, opportunity, and expectations of a job for life. I wonder what these Confirmands thought about when

they thought about their future. I wonder if life turned out as they hoped. I wonder if their faith in God made the difference all of us hope it will, if it made the difference that Pastor Ruth hoped as he instructed them in the Christian faith.

I wonder what they're doing today, and how their doing. That's what our Bicentennial Task Force is wondering, and we'd like to inspire more of our members to see if they can find their confirmation picture so that we can figure out how to invite these participants of Zion's story to join in reunions that celebrate God's gift to us through the life of this church. This is just one of many Confirmation classes that Zion has celebrated over the course of our two hundred year history. Some of these faces in the *class of '66* are still familiar. If you are wondering who they might be, just look at the bottom of page 10, where you'll find their names hidden and upside down, but in English! We've had so much fun with each of the confirmation pictures our members have located; but we're still looking for more.

Our plan is to organize several reunion celebrations that allow fellow Confirmands, pastors, interns, catechists, and friends to find a time when it works to get together on some Sunday next Spring. We have lists that name the various members of each Confirmation Class, and there are lots of classes and lots of names. But we think that we can interest more of these folks in joining in our Bicentennial Celebration if we can remind them of their connection to Zion through pictures like these. Darlene Milavickas is doing all she can to help locate Confirmation pictures and the Confirmands that are in them; but she needs your help. If you see her in church, let her know that you're looking, or call the Church Office (330-499-3909), and we'll pass the message. On Darlene's behalf, the Church Office thanks you for doing what you can to help.

REMEMBERING PEOPLE AND PLACES FROM AROUND THE WORLD



This is the memorial that commemorates Dietrich Bonhoeffer both in the place of his birth in Wroclaw, Poland, and in the courtyard of *Zionskirche* (Zion Church, located in what was an inner city neighborhood in Berlin when the as yet unordained Dr. Bonhoeffer taught Confirmation in 1926. Bonhoeffer was assigned to teach an incorrigible class, which warmed to his presence when he spent the first class sitting quietly and saying absolutely nothing, and then his second class sharing stories of his recent visit to Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem during his stay at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. Marilyn and I did not get to visit Wroclaw

(pronounced *Breslav*) because travel to Poland was excluded by our car rental company due to difficulties with car theft rings! But we did spend a quiet Sunday afternoon walking through the neighborhood of *Alexanderplatz* in what was East Berlin where a well-worn Zion Church stands to serve.

What you didn't know about Jan Hus: a Czech priest, philosopher, reformer, and master at Charles University in Prague. After John Wycliffe, the theorist of ecclesiastical Reformation, Hus is considered the first Church reformer, as he lived before Luther, Calvin, and Zwingli. He was burned at the stake for heresy against the doctrines of the Catholic Church on July 6, 1415. Hus was a key predecessor to the Protestant movement of the 16th century, and his teachings on the use of local language and criticism of indulgences influenced on Martin Luther more than a century later. After his death, followers of Hus' religious teachings rebelled against their Roman Catholic rulers and defeated five consecutive papal crusades in what became known as the Hussite Wars. In the 16th century, as many as 90% of inhabitants of what is now the Czech Republic were Protestant and followed the teachings of Hus and his successors. In 1620, the Thirty Years' War had begun with the defeat of Hussites at White Mountain during Counter Reformation.

Our most moving moment at Flossenbürg: We have been to Dachau with its historic sculpture of *Mangled Bodies*, which elicits emotions that exceed words to describe it. The same humble silence is a part of the descent down steps that take you to the final resting place of the emaciated bodies of prisoners from all over the world burned in the crematorium and laid in a mound that preserves the memory of those who died there. This gravesite called the *Valley of Death* is surrounded by flat monuments that name all of the countries represented and the number of their citizens whose lives were taken at Flossenbürg. This is the place where Dietrich Bonhoeffer was taken when, after a brief sham trial, he was condemned and then hanged on April 9, 1945.



THANK YOU'S & MORE

To our Zion Family and Friends,

I first want to acknowledge that too much time has passed since our Dad passed away in December. I guess I thought that the longer it took me to write *Thank You* notes, the longer it would take for reality to sink in. I would like to thank Pastor, Margaret Reichenbach, and Chuck Danner for everything they did to make the service very nice. I also would like to thank the *Ladies of the Church* and everyone who donated food for the luncheon. As always, the food was great and everything was wonderful. I truly appreciate all the hugs, cards, memorial contributions, and love that every one of you at Zion showed me, my family, and all of our families during a difficult time. Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

*Bonnie Farmer and the
Family of Art Edwards*

THANK YOU'S & MORE

Dear Pastor and our Zion Family,

I would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers and cards during my recent surgery and ongoing rehab period. Thank you to Pastor for his visits to the hospital, and to the ladies of Chancel Guild for the flowers, and to everyone who pitched in and worked for me since I could not work the month of June.

*Yours in Christ,
Susan Heyard*

SAD NEWS OF TWO DEATHS IN THE FAMILY

We extend our congregational sympathies to the families of Dorothy Anderson and Martha Shimko, two longtime members whom God called to their heavenly home during this past month. Dorothy lived down the street on Lorena, and has been a member of Zion since 1973. This would have been the year when Dorothy celebrated her 90th birthday. We enjoyed her regular visits to the Church Office, and will miss her good-natured thoughtfulness. Since she originally came from Monona, Wisconsin, funeral arrangements were made for the Madison area.

Martha has been living with her daughter in South Carolina for the last seven years, and often corresponded with the Church Office to let us know that she was doing well and reading our newsletters. She celebrated her 87th birthday in March, and has been a member of Zion since 1961. Her Service of Christian Burial was scheduled for the morning of July 11 at Sunset Gardens. We thank God for the connections that had been established during the tenures of Pastors Ruth and Meuschke, and for the faithful support Dorothy and Martha have displayed for the many decades of their membership among us. May God be praised! Amen

