

WORDS FROM THE PASTOR:

July is a month we set aside to celebrate our ministry of Vacation Bible School. We spend the first half of the month preparing for it, the middle of the month experiencing it, and the last half basking in the afterglow of a week well spent. This year was a little different. We spent the first half of June worrying about it, the last half of June trusting God with it, and all of July thanking God for it. First, we thanked God for the volunteers who stepped forward to help. Then, we thanked God for the children and families who enjoyed it. Finally, we thanked God for the joy that can be ours when faith is our guide and service is our goal. Of course, it is also cause for confidence when Zion is blessed to have the best VBS director on the planet with Debbie Fox. We thank Debbie for another great week in leading all of us to *Take the Plunge*.

All of the pages of this newsletter – especially pages 4 through 11 – offer proof positive of all the good stuff we enjoyed with the five days of fantastic fun that came together for us during the summer day camp we call *Vacation Bible School at Zion*. I must admit that no matter how familiar the Bible stories that we share during Vacation Bible School are, I always learn a lot about the lessons we feature. This year our focus was on THANKS and TRUST. On Monday and Tuesday we focused on thanks – thanking God for fish and food, and thanking God for water and life. On Wednesday and Thursday the focus shifted to trust – trusting God when the world around us is coming undone, and trusting God when the world within us is coming unglued.

On Wednesday, the disciples were on the water in a boat when a storm arose with blowing winds and beating waves. They cried out to Jesus, “Lord, don’t you care that we are about to perish?” Jesus responded, “Of course, I care.” And with a single word he calmed the waters, relieved their fears, and restored peace and calm to their world. On Thursday, the disciples were again in the boat on the water when they saw Jesus coming toward them walking on the water! “That’s pretty neat,” Peter thought, as he jumped out into the water to do the same. “Hey, look at me! I’m walking on water!” But he should have been looking at Jesus, and he began to sink. “Lord, don’t you care that I’m about to perish?” Again, Jesus responds, “Of course, I care.” He reached out his hand, and Peter grabbed it; and with that connection – focusing on Jesus and holding on for dear life – his fears were relieved, his faith repaired, and his peace restored.

I love the line that the disciples learned to repeat again and again, “Lord, don’t you care that we perish?” It could be a bad day, or a series of bad days. Perhaps something’s gone wrong, with one bad result following another, and a little bit of worry cascading into a full blown panic! “Lord, don’t you care that we perish?” “Of course, I care. I’ve given you the love and life of my Son. I’ve provided the support of friends and family. I’ve surrounded you with all the gifts that make your lives blessed.” There’s nothing God wouldn’t do and hasn’t done to calm the storms around us and settle the storms within us. It’s a miracle that never gets old. This year it was the ministry of VBS itself. Schedules weren’t working out. Volunteers weren’t signing up. Summer was speeding by, and we weren’t sure we were going to get VBS on the calendar. So, we put out our plea. We trusted God to inspire the volunteers we needed; and now we’re thanking God for the result. It’s a miracle that never grows old, the miracle of trusting God with our needs and thanking God for His help ... and yours. Trusting God and thanking God: these were lessons we learned as we taught them to our children. It’s the perfect combination.

JUNE'S BUDGET \$URPLUS

Our July meeting ended the program year on the strong note of yet another monthly budget surplus. We welcomed our newly appointed President, Mark Votaw. Also present were Juanita Cignetti (Secretary), Dave Palumbo (Treasurer), Carol Rossbach (Worship), Cathy Harvey (Caring), Todd Elsass (Property), Renee Keith (Learning), Vicki Givler (Parish Life), Beth Shaheen (Resource), and Pastor Sherwindt. Brian Milek was unable to attend. Juanita Cignetti opened our meeting with devotions.

For 18 month running – actually, more like 24 consecutive months – we have enjoyed monthly budget surpluses. That is a tribute to your attentive generosity. The Treasurer's Report for June documented this good news yet one more time. Our monthly income exceeded our expenses by \$391.92; and our year-to-date income is now \$2,723.93 in the black! We are hopeful that July and August will continue this good news. In addition to a healthy financial outlook for the operating budget, all of our special funds also sport very healthy balances, including the Food Pantry Fund, Advanced Giving, the Youth Fund, and several property-related funds. Our next meeting is August 20, 7:00 p.m.

During the Farewell Reception for the Beaber between the services on July 28th, Zion's Comfort Givers, who had just completed sewing 11 quilts with squares made by the kids during the week of Vacation Bible School, decided to give a quilt that featured Grant Beaber's artwork to the family. Members in the phot – from left to right – are Kay Davis, Helen Heller, Corey Beaber, Joyce Gibeaut, Donna Roan, Jaret Beaber, Grant Beaber, and Tina & Lorin Beaber. Grant was very pleased.

A FAREWELL RECEPTION

Council took a few moments between the services on July 28th to express our thanks to Lorin & Tina Beaber – and their boys, Corey, Jaret, and Grant – for their many years of service as active members of our church family. Lorin had just begun his first term as President when Exxon-Mobil moved him and his family to Houston; but before that Lorin was serving his third term as Property Ministry Elder (2003-2005, 2005-2007, 2011-12), and before that he had served as a Trustee, and briefly as a Deacon. Tina has also been exceptionally active at Zion with Christian Education, Vacation Bible School, helping to organize our Youth & Family activities, leading the High School class, offering children's sermons, while also serving two consecutive terms on Council as the Learning Ministry Elder (2007-2009, 2009-2011). Both Corey and Jaret celebrated their confirmations here; and Grant, having been baptized at Zion, has grown into a great reader at our Lenten and Advent Youth Services.

"Blessed to be a blessing": that was God's promise Abraham way back when the story of salvation began, and that has been God's gift through the Beabers as this story has continued in our life together at Zion.



GREAT NEWS ABOUT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

COME ON AND ... TAKE THE PLUNGE:
MAKE A SPLASH WITH JESUS!



A great group of children joined us at Vacation Bible School for our week-long adventure at the Water Park this year. We called it *TAKE THE PLUNGE: MAKE A SPLASH WITH JESUS*, and it took place Monday through Friday, from July 22nd through July 26th, here at the corner of Portage Street and Lindy Lane. We had thirty-nine children registered this year, averaging about thirty-five children each day. The children experienced a wide variety of activities during the week: great lessons, music, crafts, games, delicious food, many community service projects, and our big Water Park Splash Party.

This year, the children learned five great “splash” points about plunging into Jesus’ love: **OBEDIENCE, WORSHIP, COURAGE, FAITH, and SERVICE!** They also enjoyed this year’s mascot, JP Penguin, who reminded them to **Just Plunge** each time they saw him. Pastor Sherwindt introduced each day’s lesson during our opening to get us started on our daily plunges. Every lesson had two common things – Jesus and water! And each day’s themes taught some great lessons about thanking God and trusting God.



On Monday we *Plunged into Obedience*. The lesson was about Peter and his friends who had fished a spot all day and caught nothing. Then, what did Jesus tell them to do? He told them to go out and drop their nets in the same place! It was a challenge for Peter and his friends to OBEY Jesus. They had caught nothing, why try again? But once they obeyed Jesus, their nets became so full of fish that the boat began to tip. With this miracle, and what they already knew about Jesus, they learned to be obedient to His call to become fishers of men.

On Tuesday, we *Plunged into Worship*. In the lesson, Jesus meets and talks to a Samaritan woman at an ancient well outside Sychar. Jesus’ discussion with the woman made her believe in Christ, the Messiah, and the power of worship. She called everyone in the village to visit the well so that they might meet this remarkable man whom she believed to be the Christ. Through this story, we learned what it means to truly worship God.



On Wednesday, we *Plunged into Courage*. In the lesson, Jesus and his disciples were in a large boat on the Sea of Galilee, when a storm came up. Jesus was sleeping as the storm became worse. The boat was being tossed to and fro, and waves were crashing in everywhere. That’s when the disciples decided to wake Jesus. Their courage was waning, and they were afraid of drowning. Jesus awoke, and calmed the storm. The wind stopped blowing; the waves no longer rolled, the sea became completely calm: all with only a few words from Jesus. Through this we learned that Jesus is in control, and we can trust him. We should always plunge into courage by trusting our relationship with the Lord!

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

On Thursday, we ***Plunged into Faith***. In the Scripture lesson, the disciples were attempting to cross the Sea of Galilee and a figure appeared to them walking on the water; and this frightened them. As soon as Jesus spoke, their fear subsided. Then Peter offered to meet his Lord, and with the strength of his faith, Peter jumped out of the boat and was able to walk across the waves in the sea toward Jesus. As Peter began to doubt, he began to sink, and asked Jesus to rescue him. When Peter doubted his ability to walk on water, he still believed Jesus could and would save him. Jesus did just that. As long as we can plunge into our faith and look to Jesus without doubt, His power will support us, and not let us down.



Finally on Friday, we ***Plunged into Service***. In Jesus' day, people wore sandals that were easily removed, and it was customary to wash their feet when they entered a home. Typically a servant performed this menial task. When Jesus and his disciples were assembled in the upper room, Jesus realized none had their feet washed. Jesus interrupted their supper and performed the humble task. Peter, knowing full well that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God, didn't feel it was right for Jesus to act like a lowly servant, and wash others' feet. Jesus demonstrated his willingness to make himself a servant. He gave his disciples – and all of us – this example to follow: if one so powerful and mighty as Jesus Christ is willing to serve others, then so should we be willing to plunge into service, whatever the cost.

We were very blessed this year to have two special speakers who joined us during the week. Ken Brown (fireman and paramedic) and his intern Sharae, both from the North Canton Fire Department, joined us on Wednesday to talk about *Fire Safety* and explain how our courageous firefighters and paramedics help the people of our community. The children really enjoyed their time with Ken and Sharae, and they had a lot of great questions. All of us really appreciated Ken and Sharae taking the time to share this important information with the kids.

We also had an awesome group of Lifeguards (teachers) at the Water Park this year: Carley Frank, Nathan Fox, Tina Beaber and Taylor Roman (and their assistants, Max Schroeter and Chloe Snodgrass), Chrissy Parkomaki (and her assistants, Brooke Stout, Tia Riffle, and Christian Henderson), Connie Riffle (and her assistant, Annie Reiss), and Renee Keith (and her assistant, Kelly Fischer). They put in a lot of time and hard work to make this year's program a success. I am so grateful to them for the amazing job that they did! The children learned so much and had a great time thanks to these teachers!

As always, music was one of the highlights of VBS. A special thanks to Kelly Walters and her assistant, Mallory Rhodes, for leading the music this year. They did an awesome job teaching the kids the songs and motions. They put together a wonderful program for the Ice Cream Social, which parents, family, and friends truly enjoyed. Music is always one of the children's favorite activities during VBS. Just ask the kids and their parents who get to listen to the VBS CD over and over throughout the year! They truly enjoyed singing and dancing with Kelly and Mallory. Thanks again to Kelly & Mallory for leading us through our Water Park music with such great enthusiasm and energy!



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

Our crafts were once again outstanding, thanks to the creativity, patience, and organization of Connie Frank and her assistant, Marla Ergazos. The kids really enjoyed this year's crafts, which included homemade chalk, penguin visors for our younger kids, storm-in-a-bottle, FAITH trivets, t-shirts, penguin magnets, fish key chains, "I Believe" sun catchers, and much more. The finished products were great! Thank you to Connie and Marla!!!

Our service project room was very busy again this year, keeping in the tradition of Zion's VBS! Thank you to Nicole Milek and her assistants (Natalie Henderson, Kat & Lya Milek, and Brooke Roman) for all of their hard work during the week. Everything went very smoothly and the children really did some amazing work while learning the very valuable lesson of taking the plunge to serve others just as Jesus did!

Thank you to our crew that led the outdoor games all week: Jaret Beaver, Eric Dague, and Shelby Keyes. The kids loved going outside to play a variety of games and join in activities that included sponge tag, water balloons, sharks and minnows, and an obstacle course through which partners led each other while one was blindfolded. The games and activities encouraged teamwork and incorporated the daily themes into the decisions the children needed to make while they played together outside.

Our Snack Shack crew – which included Dave Palumbo, Laura Thompson, Kay Reiss, Corlene Coulter, and Sharon Stout – was awesome! They gave us a great menu that the children loved and the crew worked very hard to keep everyone fed and happy! We also had a Traveling Popsicle and Ice Cream Cart, with all of the children anxiously awaiting its daily rounds! Each treat was 25 cents, and the money collected was added to our offering to be donated to *Zion's Food Pantry* and *Wishes Can Happen (Make a Wish)*. Thanks to Christian Henderson and Brandon Stout for making all the trips with the cart throughout the week. We also treated our friends in Senior Independence to a treat from the cart throughout the week.

The week finished with Family Night and the Ice Cream Social on Thursday night, and Wet & Wild Day and Water Park Splash Party on Friday. Thursday's program was a huge hit. The kids did a great job singing and dancing. The highlight video was enjoyed by all, and the ice cream was a delicious end to the evening! Thank you to Janet Slease, Laura Thompson, and Kay Reiss for taking care of the kitchen for the Ice Cream Social. Friday's Wet & Wild Day and the Water Park Splash Party was a day of fun in the sun that included the big water slide and slip & slides, a swimming pool, water balloons galore, sponge tag, cup relays and other water activities. We enjoyed a pizza party, ice cream, and carnival games to round out the day! It was a perfect ending to celebrate a great week of learning and service, as well as all the kids' hard work!

Zion's VBS is such a great success because of the contributions and commitments of all involved – the staff, the children, their families and the congregation. Thank you to everyone who donated supplies, food, money and/or their time! The following is a list of staff and volunteers who are invaluable to me and Zion! Many of these people contributed to more than just the category in which they are listed. Everyone was willing to help out wherever and whenever they were needed! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You to everyone!

OUR WATER PARK STAFF AT "TAKE THE PLUNGE!"

Water Park Director: Debbie Fox

Lifeguards:

Carely Frank
Nathan Fox
Tina Beaber
Chrissy Parkomaki
Connie Riffle
Renee Keith



Water Park Music: Kelly Walters

Snack Shack Crew: Dave Palumbo, Laura Thompson, Kay Reiss, Corlene Coulter, Chris Thomas, Barb Achauer, Gary Horton, Sharon Stout

Water Park Crafts: Connie Frank, Marla Ergazos

Water Park Quilters: Kay Davis, Sue Geib, Joyce Gibeaut, Helen Heller, Betty Lenz, Donna Roan, Carol Snyder, Pat Stayer, Betty Tracy

Water Park Helpers: Chuck Danner, Melissa Riffle, Brooke Roman, Taylor Roman, Pastor Sherwindt, Bob & Linda Lancashire, Janet Slease

Water Park Youth Helpers: Christian Henderson, Annie Reiss, Mallory Rhodes, Tia Riffle, Max Schroeter, Chloe Snodgrass, Brandon & Brooke Stout

Guest Speakers: Ken Brown & Sharae from the North Canton Fire Department

Set Up, Decorations & Prep: Jeff & Connie Frank, Dean Fox, Carol Rossbach, Renee Keith, Connie Riffle, Carley & Cassie Frank, Nathan & Jeremy Fox, Brian Walters, Mark Votaw, Chrissy & Emma Parkomaki

Water Park Service Projects: Nicole, Lya & Kat Milek, Natalie Henderson

Outdoor Games: Jaret Beaber, Eric Dague, Shelby Keyes

Water Park Registration: Vicki Givler

Highlight DVD: Kelly Walters

Ice Cream Social: Janet Slease, Kay Reiss, Laura Thompson



This year was truly amazing – a miracle through God’s grace! Because of the people named above, our program was a great success. Zion is very blessed with a great group of volunteers who make our Vacation Bible School program one of the best!

Everyone’s flexibility, time, commitment and hard work are invaluable! I couldn’t do it without everyone’s help and support; and for that I am so very grateful from the bottom of my heart!

Thank you again to all involved!
Debbie Fox

DAILY SERVICE PROJECTS AT TAKE THE PLUNGE!

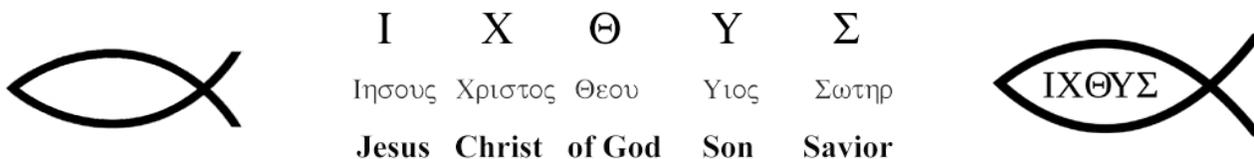
This year the children were again involved with many service projects during the week because we feel this is such an important part of our Vacation Bible School experience. We had a very enthusiastic, caring, and generous group this year, which made our projects a great success! Thank you to everyone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

DAILY OFFERING – The boys and girls once again had a contest to see who could collect the most money during the week. All week they filled up their respective jars and collected \$483.⁹⁰! The girls collected a total of \$239.⁸⁵ for the week and the boys collected \$244.⁰⁵. This money, along with the money collected from the ice cream cart, will be donated to the *Zion’s Food Pantry* and *Wishes Can Happen (Make a Wish)*. We will also help *the Heart of Compassion*, a ministry in Haiti. What a generous and caring group of kids! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

ZION’S FOOD PANTRY, PLUS SCHOOL KITS – The children also brought in food items and school supplies to fill our pool at *Lifespring Lagoon* in Luther Hall. These items will go to Zion’s Food Pantry to help families in our community who need school supplies. Again, thanks to everyone for your support!

QUILT SQUARES – The children again designed beautiful and colorful quilt squares this year. This has become a wonderful tradition at VBS for Zion. Zion’s quilters were able to sew eleven amazing & beautiful quilts from the squares the children created. Nine of these quilts will be sent to Lutheran World Relief to help those in need across the globe, and one was raffled off at the Ice Cream Social. Our quilt raffle raised \$172 this year. Rachel Dornhecker was the lucky winner. Congratulations to Rachel; and thanks to the children and Zion’s talented and amazing quilters for all of their hard work! One other quilt was given to Grant Beaber and the Beaber family as a token of our appreciation at Zion for all their family has done over the years. We wish the Beaber family all the best as they begin a journey that takes them to Houston, Texas.

OTHER PROJECTS – The children also worked on several other projects throughout the week in their classrooms and during their service time. Miss Renee’s class spent time with our friends in Senior Independence on Tuesday playing *Glory Bible Bingo*. They tied fleece baby blankets, along with Miss Connie’s class, for Children’s Hospital. Both classes made *Get Well* cards that will be given to hospitals and nursing homes. Miss Chrissy’s and Miss Connie’s classes made trail mix and coloring pages, and shared them with our friends in Senior Independence. The smiles shared were priceless! All the classes made ICHTHYS necklaces. *Ichthys* is the Greek word for fish. Our children made one for themselves and one to be given away showing their faith in God. FYI: The image of a fish has been a symbol for Christ since the days of the early church. In Greek, the word ICHTHYS it is an acronym for Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior:



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

Happy Birthday to:



UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Sunday, September 8: *Rally Day* marks the beginning of yet another Sunday School Year
Sunday, September 15: The *2013-14 Sunday School Year* begins with classes for all ages!

SUNDAY SCHOOL REMINDER FOR PRE-K THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL

We are taking a break this summer from Sunday School. There are no Sunday School classes for Pre-K through High School this summer. We will start up again in September when we kick off the Sunday School year with Rally Day on Sunday, September 8, 2013 and classes will start up again on Sunday, September 15th.

We want to send out a big hug and thank you from the bottom of our hearts to Tina Beaber for all of her years of service to our youth! She has been a true gift to our children at Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and all of our youth activities. We will all miss her very much, and we wish all the best to Tina, Lorin, and the boys!

FYI: We are also searching for anyone interested in teaching Sunday School this year for our Pre-K & Kindergarten Class as well as for our High School Class. If anyone is interested, or would like more information, please contact Debbie Fox at 330-966-2433, or call the Church Office at 330-499-3909.

DON'T FORGET RALLY DAY AT ZION ON SEPTEMBER 8TH!

We will kick off the new Sunday School year with Rally Day on Sunday, September 8, beginning at 9:15 a.m. and continuing through the Sunday School hour. There will be snacks and fun activities planned for the kids! It will be a great day of fun and fellowship for all.

ONE FINAL THOUGHT: THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR VBS!

Thank you again to everyone for your support of all our service projects during Vacation Bible School! The week once again continued the great tradition of service at Zion's VBS, and we made great strides in all we achieved. We could see God's love at work everywhere we turned! There's just no substitute for that. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you, again!

BICENTENNIAL UPDATE

We received great support for our Prime Rib Dinner: 177 tickets sold, 140 from our Zion and 37 from Zion United Church of Christ. Because of the generosity of our leaders and our members, our Bicentennial Anniversary Task Force was able to clear \$1,400.⁰⁰ as we look ahead to special guests, anniversary programs and a great year. Our bicentennial partners at Zion United Church of Christ raised \$370.⁰⁰ through this fundraiser. When our Task Force met in July, we decided to go ahead and plan on selling a Bicentennial “Old Zion” Christmas ornament for the holiday season. On paper, it looks very impressive. We’re sure that you will agree, and will want to include it on your Christmas shopping list.

We received many nice comments about our Confirmation picture in last month’s *Zion Herald*. Our collection of Confirmation pictures is growing. Darlene Milavickas has been keeping track, and we have pictures from 1916 (Pastor Ferne), 1933 (Pastor Rempke), 1942 (Pastor Yeager), 1945 (Pastor Daneker), 1955 (Pastor LaFontaine), 1959 & 1966 (Pastor Ruth), 1968 through 1984 (Pastor Meuschke), 1986 through 1991, 1993, 1994, and 1996 (Pastor Lutz). Our collection is growing, and for that we are thankful to all of you, and for a great find in a hidden closet! However, we still need your help. As an added reminder, the Bicentennial Task Force is going to create a picture display in the Narthex that will draw attention to some of the great memories we have enjoyed by looking at some of photographs from times past. So, if you have some miscellaneous pictures or other historical items that you would like to share with us for our display, please contact Darlene Milavickas or the Church Office. This is an exciting time as we look back and journey forward together.

THE WOMEN OF ZION

The Comfort Givers met during the week of Vacation Bible School, and did a great job organizing scores of quilt squares designed by our VBS kids into eleven beautiful quilts, nine of which will become a part of Blanket Sunday in October. One was given to our raffle winner, and another to the Beabers.

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

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

MORE WOMEN'S NEWS

The Women's Bible Study continues with Part 3 of their summer series *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly*. The theme of Session 3 is *All Ate and Were Filled*. In Luke 9, Jesus sent his disciples on a mission trip to proclaim the good news and heal the sick. When they returned, they were excited to share what had happened. So, Jesus set the table ... for 5,000 plus ... and all ate and were filled! Actually, they gathered in groups of fifty and sat on the ground. Later, in Luke 22:35, Jesus asked, "When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?" They could have said, "Clean socks would have been nice," or "A little spending money would have been good." But they said, "No, not a thing." How could that be? How could they lack nothing when they went out with nothing? They were sent out with nothing but the gospel; and the gospel was enough. Is the gospel still enough? Come, and join in the conversation as the Women of Zion meet on the third Tuesday, August, 20th, at 9:30 a.m. in the Resource Center.

The Chancel Guild has a meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, September 10th**, beginning at 6:30 p.m. We will spend the first part of our evening with the usual array of Sanctuary cleaning, after which we will convene our meeting in Luther Hall with refreshments and a general update about our interests and activities as we head into the fall season.

The Canton-Massillon Cluster: NEOSWO stands for the Northeastern Ohio Synod Women's Organization. It is our Synod-wide women's organization. Each conference has its own cluster, and the Canton-Massillon Cluster Fall Fellowship is scheduled for Saturday, September 14th, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Sebring. Stay tuned for more.

THANK YOU'S & MORE

Dear Pastor Sherwindt and friends at Zion,
Thank you very much for your visits at the hospital, and then at Aultman Woodlawn. Thank you for the weekly mailings, and thanks to everyone for your many cards. Above all, thank you for your prayers.

*God bless you all,
Audrey Hartman*

Dear Pastor and Members of Zion,
My apologies for being so late with my *Thank You* for your many cards and prayers during my recent stay at the hospital and then at Aultman Woodlawn for rehab and therapy. I appreciated each and every card, call, kindness, and prayer. Sometimes circumstances make it difficult to respond as we'd like.

*God bless you & stay well,
Helen Ballentine*

Dear Zion Lutheran Church family,
I would like to thank you for giving me the chance to help out with this year's VBS, *Take the Plunge*. I loved spending time with Miss Connie's class, and even some of the sweet children in other classes. I hope to come next year, and can't wait to help! Special thanks to Mrs. Fox, Pastor Sherwindt, Miss Kelly Walters, Mrs. Connie Riffle, and to my family – Grandmother Kay Reiss and Aunt Laura Thompson – and to everyone else at the church!

*Thanks again, and God bless,
Anna Laurel Reiss*

(Annie was Miss Connie's helper. She traveled north to Ohio to visit with her grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt, uncle, and cousin; and since she was here, Aunt Laura recruited her for VBS. God surely does work in wonderful ways!)

IN LOVING MEMORY OF DOROTHY E. ANDERSON

(October 14, 1923 – June 23, 2013)

When Dorothy passed away and funeral arrangements were made for her return to Monona, Wisconsin (near Madison), Marilyn and I were traveling where east meets west in Europe, with stops in Prague, Vienna, and Berlin. Prague found itself behind the Iron Curtain after World War II. Austria was officially neutral, with ties to eastern and western Europe. Berlin was a divided city, with the American, British, and French sectors cordoned off from the Russian sector by the Berlin Wall. The remnants of that history make Berlin quite a city to visit, some fifty years after the Berlin Wall went up, and now over twenty years since it was torn down. Modern-day Berlin is an endless series of monuments remembering the glory of Germany's rise to power in the 19th century and the shame of its descent into terror in the 20th century.

There's the Reichstag and Museum Island, Checkpoint Charlie and the Brandenburg Gate. That's where Ronald Reagan challenged Mikhail Gorbachev in 1987 to *tear down this wall*. Nearby, John F. Kennedy stood with Berliners in 1963 with those famous words, *Ich bin ein Berliner*. There are landmarks everywhere. Our visit to Berlin started with a stop at the Bonhoeffer House because Dietrich Bonhoeffer was Zion's guide through Lent, and Marilyn and I wanted to learn more about his struggle with resistance in the place where that struggle was centered, Germany's capital, Berlin. We wanted to learn more about Bonhoeffer the student, the teacher, the pastor, theologian, and martyr, a committed churchman and heroic organizer of political resistance during the rise and fall of National Socialism and the Nazi movement.

I came across a sermon Bonhoeffer delivered in London on Memorial Day, when churches remembered those who had died, and pondered the meaning of life's end and God's promises. The sermon was entitled *Confident Hope*, and it began with two questions. "Two questions have brought us to church today. They are: Where are our dead? Where will we be after our own death?" Bonhoeffer then went on to proclaim that "the church has the answer" because "God has given us the answer." Bonhoeffer insists that "the person who asks about the dead and really wants to have an answer, who isn't content with just temporary comfort, must venture out to the path that leads to God, and then ask" – boldly ask. God will answer because that is God's will. Bonhoeffer assures us that the God of peace and eternal life gives His answer to the church today. It is meant for those who believe this God who promises and gives the utmost assurance that they are alive in Him. "They are in peace. God's world is peace, final peace after the final battle."

Bonhoeffer's life had come to be filled beyond full with war and resistance. There was no escaping a world in the grip of war. Peace meant the world to Bonhoeffer, and here's how he describes God's peace. "God's peace means rest for those whom life has made tired. It means security for those who wandered through life unsheltered and unguarded. It means a home for the homeless. It means quiet for the battle weary, relief for the tormented, comfort for the distressed. Our dead are comforted with God's comfort. God has wiped away their tears. God has put an end to ceaseless hustle and bustle. They are in peace. That means something completely new and final that happens only on God's initiative. It is not our peace, but God's peace." Dorothy was not a woman who pondered much about death. She was too busy living life. But she wasn't so busy that she didn't take time to pause and appreciate all that God gives in promising us a share in the life that never ends, the life of His Son, marked by a love that never ends, in a kingdom where true peace will be ours forever. That's the Word God gives, the promise God honors, the gift that's ours ... in Jesus' name. Amen
