

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR:

Do you remember the classic *I'll See You in September*? Well, September is here; and we've got activities on the calendar all month long! The weekend of Labor Day will take care of itself; and then comes RALLY DAY at Zion. What a great day we've got planned for everybody. The Senior Choir returns for the start of a new choral year. We've had some really exceptional special music during the summer; but it is always great to have the choir back. After the 8:00 a.m. service, Jeff Hissong will be back for another presentation that YOU WILL NOT WANT TO MISS. Who can forget his great work with Katie Luther. Now he's back with a program about Lutheranism during the Civil War. His presentation is entitled "The Lutheran Church, Southern Flags, and a Yankee named Joseph Spangler." That Yankee is connected to North Canton. Make sure that you come and join us to find out how.

While Jeff Hissong is filling the room and making us laugh in Luther Hall between the services, Debbie Fox and the Sunday School staff will be entertaining our kids with games, snacks, and lots of activities. One of those activities will be Carol Rossbach and Carley Frank treating all of our kids to some face-painting. We'll all be ready for the 10:30 a.m. service, which leads directly to the great Rally Day Party we have planned. There will be games for kids and adults. There will be snacks and drinks. The weather should be great; the grills will be heated up; and it won't be long before the food will be ready. You won't find better food for a Sunday afternoon picnic anywhere. Randy Cizek, Mark Votaw, the Singing Chef, Brian Milek, newcomer Kevin Walters, Chris Thomas, and so much more. Tony Niesz will be there with desserts; and he'll be joined by lots of members preparing lots of desserts, salads, and sides for a fabulous buffet.

Really, Rally Day will be quite the happening this year. We are going out of our way to invite everybody we know. I'm sure you already received your invitation in the mail. We have spread the word at church. We have invited our friends from the group home on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, the men who live in the parsonage next door, as well as the families we serve through the ministry of our Food Pantry. We want Rally Day to be an inclusive celebration of the wide embrace of God's grace opening wide the gates to the kingdom to all who say, "Yes, count me in!" When it comes to the kingdom of heaven, it's important that God has already done the inviting, spreading His Good Word and sealing the invitation with the Blood of Christ. When it comes to Rally Day, we've done everything we can to make sure that we've got everything we need to make the start of the new program year exciting, exhilarating, lots of fun, and deliriously delicious.



**We're getting the Grills  
back together!  
We got people  
to feed and  
programs to  
grow!**

**We're on a Mission From God!  
Rally Day 2013  
Zion Lutheran Church  
Come One and All!  
September 8th 12:00pm**

**Support the Food Pantry  
& Youth Programs**

## TWO WORKSHOPS: SEPTEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup> & SEPTEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup>

The Internship Committee is back. We've got the band together again: Brian Milek, Debbie Fox, Connie Riffle, Janet Slease, Renee Keith, Nick Lanzalotta, and Pastor, too. We've added newcomer (and Zion's new President) Mark Votaw; and we're looking to add more youth and more adults to the mix in order to add to the energy we want to inspire among members of Zion who will join us in improving what we are doing in the area of youth and family ministries.

We test-marketed a workshop we had been working on at a Church Council earlier this year, and it went really well. We were ready to roll it out for the rest of the congregation, when we found out that we weren't going to get an Intern this year. Then we found out that the Beabers were leaving for Houston, Texas, with a new assignment with Exxon-Mobil for Lorin, Tina, and the boys. Then there was a flurry of events on the calendar: the Mother's Day Breakfast, Confirmation, the Bicentennial Prime Rib Dinner, summer vacations, Vacation Bible School.... I'm sure you get the picture.

Well, we're back; and we want to improve what we are doing in the area of youth and family ministries. We are unveiling our workshop in Luther Hall between the services on Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, for everyone who is interested in joining us. We'll lay out the problems, talk about the challenges, brainstorm some solutions, and line up some volunteers to help us lead the way into the future. It will be one very interesting hour. You'll be glad you joined us. We'll have juice, coffee, and a few edibles that will make it worth your while.

Then, the very next Sunday, we will host another hour of dialogue in Luther Hall between the services. It won't be so much a workshop as a *Question and Answer* session. We will talk more about what happened with the Internship application for the 2013-2014 academic year. What did we learn about the application process? Was there a particular reason why we didn't get an Intern? Is there anything we can do to improve our chances this year? Do we want to put our name back in the hat this year? What are the benefits? What are the costs?

We didn't have a whole lot of time in April to say much about not being assigned an Intern. September 29<sup>th</sup> will be our time for taking the time to bring everyone in on the review process. We think that we have the sequence right. First, on Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will talk about the needs that compelled us to look to the Internship Program for momentum and a plan of action in addressing some pivotal challenges facing Zion. Then, on Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, we will talk more about whether we want to take another shot at adding an Intern to the arsenal of resources with which we take on the challenges of growing in love and service by grace.

So, September 1<sup>st</sup> is Labor Day Sunday. September 8<sup>th</sup> is Rally Day. September 15<sup>th</sup> is the start of the Sunday School year, with a full slate of classes scheduled. September 22<sup>nd</sup> is a workshop on improving what we're doing with youth and family ministries. September 29<sup>th</sup> is our Q & A about the Internship Program. September has arrived; and we have a full slate of activities on the calendar all month long. Make it a point to join us. You'll be glad you did; and so will we.

## AUGUST'S BUDGET SURPLUS

The streak of consecutive monthly budget surpluses continues, remaining perfect for 2013; and it isn't just *monthly* surpluses, for we are now on our way to making it seven consecutive balanced budgets at Zion, too. August came in with a small surplus, which was actually quite surprising because income was kind of light; but so were expenses. June, July, and August were challenging months for Zion: June because of a worship schedule that included joint services and vacation Sundays; July and August because they were 4-Sunday summer months. Giving was up to the task; utilities gave us a break; and staffing expenses lightened the load.

The Treasurer's Report for August shows that we were able to avoid a summer slump. Now we are hoping that September will put us on a track that encourages us to embrace our bicentennial plans with boldness, confidence, and faith. You will notice that two of our off-budget funds – the Food Pantry Fund and our Youth Fund – also have healthy balances as we head into an active time of year for the ministries they fund.

### **ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS IN AUGUST**

August Income	\$ 16,871.99
August Expenses	\$ 16,707.12
<b>August Surplus</b>	<b>\$ 164.87</b>
Income through August	\$ 153,016.05
Expenses thru August	\$ 150,088.40
<b>2013 YTD Surplus</b>	<b>\$ 2,927.65</b>
2012 YTD Surplus	\$ 5,369.58
Food Pantry Fund	\$ 4,518.77
Zion's Youth Fund	\$ 6,491.57

***We thank you for your generous support!***

## CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

Mark Votaw called our August meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Sherwindt offered devotions. Juanita Cignetti (Secretary), Dave Palumbo (Treasurer), Beth Shaheen (Resource), Todd Elsass (Property), Carol Rossbach (Worship), Vicki Givler (Parish Life), Renee Keith (Learning), and Pastor Sherwindt were present. Cathy Harvey and Brian Milek were excused.

**Parish Life: Vicki Givler** reported that the Women of Zion are looking forward to the Canton-Massillon Cluster Fall Fellowship on September 14<sup>th</sup>, as well as working on gathering together their personal care and school kits for Blanket Sunday on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Zion's *Bowling Team*, which bowls at Park Lanes, needs another member who will bowl as an alternate every other Thursday. Contact Dean Yoder with your interest.

**Caring Ministry: Cathy Harvey** reported that Zion's Food Pantry has experienced another upturn in the families we serve, bumping back up into the 60s, after moving toward 55 families served when we opened our doors for service on the first and third Tuesdays during the summer months. We expect that this trend of serving more families rather than fewer will continue all the way through the end of the year. We feel good about the number of volunteers that help on a regular basis, although new volunteers are always welcome.

**Learning Ministry: Renee Keith** reported that Vacation Bible School was another great success thanks to the many members and friends of Zion who contributed to our effort, and that the 2013-14 Sunday School year will soon begin with Rally Day set for September 8<sup>th</sup>, and the beginning of classes for all ages on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **MORE COUNCIL NEWS**

**Worship Ministry:** *Carol Rossbach* reported that our worship schedule for Rally Day is set. The Senior Choir will begin with rehearsals on Wednesday, September 4, and then sing at 8:00 a.m. on Rally Day. The Sunday School hour is jam-packed with activities and fun. The Praise Team will lead the 10:30 a.m. service, with great food to follow after that. We were able to arrange for a more even distribution of acolytes between the early and late service, and we discussed the need to recruit more assisting ministers at the late service. We continue to plan worship events surrounding our Bicentennial next year.

**Property Ministry:** *Todd Elsass* continues to oversee our interests with the pillars outside the Narthex, the stump removal of trees taken down last year, and prospects and prices regarding resurfacing the parking lot. We are looking into costs and timeframes, with our Bicentennial as motivation. You only turn two hundred once, and once may be enough!

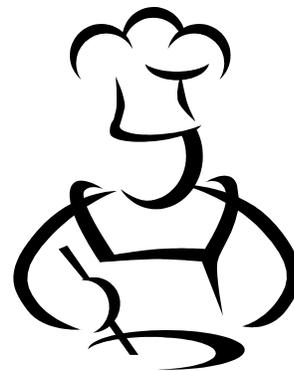
**Zion's Bicentennial Task Force** discussed our progress in collecting Confirmation pictures. Our thanks to all who responded. We have begun the process of putting together Bicentennial displays, with our first installment on display in the Narthex right now! In future months we will feature various Confirmation classes with the challenge to *NAME THOSE CONFIRMANDS!* Darlene Milavickas is leading our efforts in organizing our Confirmation reunions. Brian Walters is leading the effort in piecing together a video narrative of our history. Carol Rossbach is making progress in moving forward with the Faceted Glass Windows. Chuck Danner is recording interviews with some of our long-term members. Plans are in place for a great year. Stay tuned. Your help is always needed.

## **ZION'S NEW PROGRAM YEAR BEGINS WITH A RALLY DAY PARTY!**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8<sup>th</sup>  
GREAT STUFF ALL DAY**

**Worship, 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.  
Great Food, 12:30 p.m.  
Clean-up at 3:00 p.m.**

The Great Grill Off in Action  
Pulled Pork, Beef, Chicken,  
Hot Dogs and Hamburgers  
Baked Beans & Cole Slaw  
Incredible Sides & Salads  
Lots of Great Desserts



Good Fun, Great Food, Fabulous Fellowship  
The Start of a New Choral Year, 8 a.m.  
Jeff Hissong for Adults, 9:15 a.m.  
Face-Painting, Snacks, Games  
Water Games, Slip 'n Slides  
Let's Raise Money for the Food Pantry  
Let's Grow Our Youth and Family Ministries

GREAT NEWS FROM ZION'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:**

UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>:** Rally Day Festivities fill the morning and the afternoon, too!  
**Sunday, September 15:** The 2013-2014 Sunday School Year begins today at 9:15 a.m.  
**Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>:** 2013 Youth Missions Fall Craft Show, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

RALLY DAY KICK-OFF TO A GREAT YEAR

Rally Day at Zion will be Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. This is going to be a GREAT EVENT filled with FUN AND FELLOWSHIP in the morning and GREAT FOOD in the afternoon! Rally Day will start for our youth between services in the gym at 9:15 a.m. There will be carnival games, a scavenger hunt, refreshments, face-painting, and lots more for our Sunday School kids and their families.

We will have lots of information to give the parents, along with the necessary forms for Sunday School, and refreshments, too. Plus, Jeff Hissong will be offering a great program in Luther Hall on Lutheranism during the Civil War. Rally Day will be a great kick-off to what we hope will be a great year for Zion's youth and families. We will look for you at 9:15 a.m. on September 8<sup>th</sup> as we get ready for a great party and anticipate the new Sunday School year!

We are asking all of Zion's older youth (7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade) to help with this event, along with anyone else who might be interested in lending a hand. We need helpers to set up and to lead our games and activities. Set up will begin at 8:30 a.m. Our activities will start at 9:15 a.m. Any help that you can offer is greatly appreciated.

ZION'S NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR

We are always looking for new volunteers to help with teaching and leading our Sunday School classes. This year we are in need of a PreK/Kindergarten teacher. Let me repeat: *we are really in need of a PreK/Kindergarten teacher.* It is always great to have new and fresh ideas for our program. If you are interested in being a teacher, a classroom helper, or a substitute for these positions, contact Debbie Fox at (330) 966-2433. It goes without saying, although we are glad to say it out loud and often, volunteering is a rewarding and enjoyable opportunity to share God's love and God's Word with Zion's Youth!

PRE-K THROUGH THE SIXTH GRADE

We are looking forward to Rally Day and the start of the new Sunday School Year! We have a year of great lessons and activities planned, along with our Christmas and Easter Programs. We will also have our traditional Halloween Party, service projects at Thanksgiving and Christmas, along with other fun events this year! Our children's classes are for kids age 3 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. This year we'll be using a couple of new books with some pretty important Bible stories. We are excited about these lessons and are looking forward to a year full of fun and learning.

## MORE GREAT NEWS FOR ZION'S YOUTH

### CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION AND THE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS

Confirmation Instruction will start on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, at 9:15 a.m. in the Resource Center. This class is for all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Renee Keith will lead our confirmations class, which will continue to follow the *Hear We Stand* Confirmation program. Thank you to Renee for her continued support and commitment to our children.

Our High School class will also start Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, at 9:15 a.m. in the Youth Room. We are still looking for volunteers to lead this class each Sunday morning. Our hope is to create a team of adults committed to leading the class and leading our youth as we grow in love and service by grace together. It is a great way to get involved with our young adults as they continue their Christian education experience. We encourage ALL OF OUR HIGH SCHOOLERS to join us on Sunday mornings, and especially on the Sunday we begin the Sunday School year.

### FALL OKTOBERFEST YOUTH MISSIONS CRAFT SHOW NEWS

The Craft Show will be here before we know it. So we are planning to start working on the youth's projects this month. We will once again put together raffle baskets from the Sunday School classes. Classes will receive their basket themes on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, which, as we've announced, is Rally Day. We would like all items to be donated for the baskets by Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. Tickets for these baskets will go on sale in October. The youth of Zion will again host a bake sale at the Craft Show. Their project this year will be making items like chocolate-covered pretzels, chocolate-covered oreos, and much more. We will also be asking for additional baked goods from our Zion family to help round out the Bake Sale Table.

Our *Tenth Annual Craft Show* will take place on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registrations are a little ahead of last year. At this writing, 34 craft tables have been rented! We have plenty of time to reach our goal of 70. This is a great event at Zion, which helps our youth program, and we need lots of help to make it a success. There will be sign-up sheets in Luther Hall later in September for volunteers, bake sale items, and other food items we will need. We encourage everyone to help. Again, we very much appreciate your support of Zion's youth!

### ZION'S YOUTH SPOTLIGHT PAGES WILL BE BACK

We are going to continue with our monthly questions for this year's Youth Spotlight section of the newsletter. Each month, starting with October's newsletter, we will ask the kids a question about many different things – their favorites, their interests, their talents, and more. We'll then share all the kids' answers in the newsletter. We will ask these questions during Sunday School and through email. Parents, please be sure Debbie Fox has your correct and updated emails.

### AN ACME COMMUNITY CASH BACK PROGRAM UPDATE

It's that time of year again! We will begin collecting Acme receipts again this month to help Zion's Youth. Acme's *Community Cash Back* program runs from September 21, 2013 through February 8, 2014. We'll have a collection jar in the Narthex. Thanks for your support!

## ZION'S SENIOR CHOIR

*If you are a present, past, or potential choir member, then this invitation is for you:*

I have been extremely blessed and pleased to work with such a wonderful group of singers, and have been honored with the opportunity to continue in this capacity for another church year.

We would like to start off the year with a combination potluck picnic and rehearsal on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. The picnic will begin at 6:00 p.m., followed by our first rehearsal. If you would like to come, then all we ask is that you bring the following: Sopranos – salad or side dish; Altos – dessert; Tenors – 2 liters of pop or ice tea; Basses – hamburger buns.

If you have not sung in the choir for some time, or at all, we hope that you will prayerfully consider joining us to sing praises to God! We are hoping to completely fill the choir pews this year.

Looking forward to a great choral season with you being a part of it!

Blessings,  
Fred Locker 

Please remember, and don't forget: Zion's Senior Choir is set to resume rehearsals on **Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>**. Our rehearsals are usually on Wednesdays, and typically run from 7:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. Our first Sunday to sing will be Rally Day, which is **Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**. We will typically sing at the 8:00 a.m. service, although occasionally we sing at 10:30 a.m., too. The choral season runs through Trinity Sunday, which will be June 15<sup>th</sup>. We'd love to have some additional voices join us this year. So, if you are at all interested, contact Fred Locker (330-265-5129) or the Church Office (330-499-3909).

## BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON

As many now know, our twice-elected Bishop of the Northeastern Ohio Synod, serving in that office since 2006, was elected at the Churchwide Assembly in Pittsburgh this August to become the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA. Her term begins November 1<sup>st</sup>. She becomes the first woman to serve in that role, a theme which has been regularly reported through wider media outlets. She also places Ohio back on the map in raising up leaders in the ELCA. There is something about Ohio that places us at *the heart of it all*.

Prior to her election as Bishop of the Northeastern Ohio Synod in 2006, Bishop Eaton served as Pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church in Ashtabula, Ohio (1991-2006), Interim Pastor of Good Hope Lutheran Church in Boardman, Ohio (1990-1991), and as an Associate Pastor on the staff at All Saints Lutheran Church in Worthington, Ohio (1980-1990). She earned a Master's of Divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School, and a Bachelor's degree in music education from the College of Wooster.

She will be installed as Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, at the Rockefeller Memorial Chapel in Chicago. The installation is open to the public. Tickets are not required. Worship begins at 2:00 p.m. (Central). Doors open at 1:00 p.m. A free public reception will follow. Following that great event, Bishop Eaton will return to northeast Ohio, and remain in her current position through to the end of the month. A farewell reception is planned for the Sunday afternoon of October 20<sup>th</sup>. More information will be provided as details develop. An Interim Bishop will then be appointed, as we plan for the election of a new bishop at our next Synod Assembly in May 2014.

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women of Zion will begin a new Bible study when they meet on the third Tuesday, which is *September 17*. Their guide is the Rt. Rev. Dr. Kay Ward – the first woman to be chosen as a bishop in the Moravian church's 550-year history (in 1998), and who in 2006 retired from the faculty of the Moravian Theological Seminary in Bethlehem, PA. Her theme for this new 9-session journey will focus on women, *In Good Company: Stories of Biblical Women*. Session 1 follows the story of *Hannah, A Promise Keeper*.

Hannah remained childless in marriage for many years. After years of prayerful longing, she conceived and bore a son, whose name was Samuel. Her promise to the Lord was that, should she be blessed with a son, she would dedicate him to the Lord's service. Samuel was a crucial figure in history. He signaled the end of the line of charismatic judges, and anointed Saul to be Israel's first king, and then David, Israel's greatest king. Hannah made a promise to God, which she kept, and, in so doing, changed the course of salvation history. Plan to join the Women of Zion at their monthly Bible study, which will meet in the Resource Center on **Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>**, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Zion United Church of Christ presents –

### **An Old-Fashioned Fall Festival**

Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Enjoy a **Country Ham Dinner**, which will be served in Beck Hall, 4:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Bake Shoppe, Coffee Shop, Garden Shoppe, Cook's Corner, General Store, Holiday Shoppe, Ice Cream Shoppe, Jewelry Shoppe, Pie-Baking Contest, Quilt Raffle, Sweet Shoppe, and lots of vendors, with entertainment all day long!

## MORE WOMEN'S NEWS

**The Canton-Massillon Cluster:** Our Fall Fellowship will feature Jeff Hissong, who will offer a presentation entitled *Three Lutheran Ladies at the Battle of Gettysburg*. The date is Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at Trinity Lutheran Church, 930 N 12<sup>th</sup> Street, in Sebring. The cost is \$5.00, which includes lunch. We will collect in-kind gifts of personal care kit items or paper products for "The Concern" run by the churches in Sebring. The deadline by mail is September 7<sup>th</sup>, or by phone September 8<sup>th</sup>. Contact Betty Tracy with your interest.

**Zion's Comfort Givers** return to their regular schedule of meeting on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, **September 12 & 26**, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in Luther Hall. We are heading toward Blanket Sunday in October, when we gather up a year's worth of service and send blankets and quilts around the world through the efforts of Lutheran World Relief. We can really use more help, so surprise us with your presence. You'll enjoy the coffee and conversation; but mostly you'll enjoy being filled with the feeling of knowing that we're helping others through the good we do.

**The Women of Zion thank you in advance** for your support in their drive to provide Lutheran World Relief with more *Personal Care Kits* and *School Kits* this year. We have had a great response from previous requests, and items needed are now limited to bath-size towels (dark color is recommended) and bars of soap for our *Personal Care Kits*, as well as ball point pens (no gel ink), unsharpened #2 pencils, and blunt scissors for our *School Kits*. Don't forget that cash donations are also appreciated. We can do the shopping, or help Lutheran World Relief pay for shipping.

## **HEARTFELT THANK YOU'S**

*Dear friends and family at Zion,*

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who gave or sent Larry a card for his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. He received 99 birthday cards, and he enjoyed and appreciated every one.

*Thanks again,  
Sue Heyard & Evelyn Moore*

*Dear friends at Zion,*

Ron and I want to thank all of you who sent cards and best wishes to us in celebration of our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They were much appreciated.

*Sincerely,  
Ron & Carole Singer*

*Dear Pastor Sherwindt,*

Thank you for your message of comfort, which we hold in grateful remembrance.

*Sincerely,  
The Bowen/Campbell Family*

## **SOME IMPORTANT DATES**

**The Canton-Massillon Conference of LMM (Lutheran Men in Mission)** invites you to their **ANNUAL STEAK/CHICKEN FRY** at Israel Lutheran Church in Paris, Ohio on Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meal includes a choice of steak or chicken, with cole slaw, bread & butter, and pie. The cost is \$20 for steak and \$15 for chicken. All proceeds from the event will be matched by the Stark County Chapter of Thrivent. If you plan to attend, please call in your reservation to Bernie Bresson at 330-704-3449.

Speaking of the **Stark County Chapter of Thrivent**, congregational advocates are invited to a training session at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Alliance for the inside scoop on how to get Thrivent to match the proceeds raised at our fundraisers. A free gourmet breakfast will be served by the St. Paul's Men's Group. The meeting starts at **8:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>**.

**YET ANOTHER THANK YOU:** The Women of Zion have been blessed for many years with the assistance of Verle Elsass when the time came for packing, weighing, then loading and transporting our blankets, comforters, school kits and personal care kits every October. Verle has helped get everything ready in Luther Hall, load the boxes into the back of his pickup truck, and then drive everything over to Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Seville. After all these years, Verle has concluded that the time has come for him to retire from his role as transport specialist. We thank him for his longtime faithfulness. We certainly hope to find another driver; but we know that Verle is truly irreplaceable. Please accept our heartfelt thanks for all you've done.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF MARY L. BOWEN

January 6, 1926 – August 26, 2013

Mary Bowen was a quietly supportive *membrane* in that portion of *the body of Christ* that is ours at Zion Lutheran Church. She was a quiet woman, but her deeds spoke volumes of the difference our Lord's love made in her life, and the difference her love made in ours. Friends and family knew her many strengths up close and personal, and so did her neighbors, her colleagues, the students and families she touched, and, of course, pastors like me who got to know her in the privacy of her home, where she graciously hosted many nice visits, sharing holy communion, pleasant fellowship, and some pretty interesting conversations. It might be surprising to some, but the more I got to know Mary, the more impressed I was by her love for her Lutheran roots. She was a proud graduate of Capital University; and she was proud as well of the strength of commitment that Lutherans have historically embodied in valuing institutions of education at all levels. She shared with me once that, as a Lutheran, she would like to have taught at one of the Lutheran schools we had in Cleveland. But she wound up closer to home, and taught in the public school system all of her professional life. She took great pride in her role as an educator, a teacher, a resource for learning, a guide, a friend, someone who cared about her students, their families, her own family, and the community we shared.

Those who thought of Mary as a friend treasured these qualities in her, and they treasured her. She didn't keep track of the little things she did, the kindness she showed, the tender heart she had, the responsibilities she assumed, or the difference she made. She was just doing her part as best she could. That's what faith meant – faith active in love. That's how Luther said it; and that's how Mary lived it. Our Gospel from Matthew astounds for the surprise that came over those who were depicted in the text, as our Lord took note of the little things they did during the course of living their daily lives. He didn't say, "Wow! This one became President of the United States", or president of anything. He didn't say, "This one was the greatest quarterback that ever lived", or the greatest at anything. Our Lord didn't stick with the most impressive, the rich, the famous, those looking for their fifteen minutes. He noticed the ordinary things we have an opportunity to do every day: sharing what we have with those who need us, offering food to the hungry, clothes to the needy, a cup of water for the thirsty, remembering the sick with kindness, even worrying about those who might be victims of an oversight, of injustice, or worse, trying in small ways to be a beacon of light, or hope.

"Lord," we can hear Mary say, "We were just trying to do our part. It was nothing special or spectacular." Jesus replies, "Inasmuch as you did to the least of these, you did it to me." Or, we could go with the bulletin cover: "Well done, good and faithful servant." Well done, indeed. "Enter into the joy that has been prepared for you from before the foundation of the world!" "You didn't have to do that on my account," Mary might say. But that's exactly what God does. That's the promise of the Gospel, the goodness of God's grace, the desire of God's heart. I know that when we read about persons who are worthy of divine pronouncement boldly affirming God's judgment of a life well lived, it seems that we should be looking at folks like Albert Schweitzer, Dag Hammarskjöld, Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, or St. Michael of All Angels. But God invites us to look into the life of the saint we honor today, Mary Bowen, a quiet, humble woman, who loved the Lord, and did her part one day and one person at a time.