

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR:

Our season of bicentennial celebration is now in full swing. We got things started in March with visits from Pr. Ralph Edwards, Fr. Jay Clarke, and Rev. Sarah Taylor Peck. Ralph is a son of the congregation, ordained for Christian ministry in 2000. Fr. Clarke is the Rector at St. Paul’s Catholic Church on South Main Street; and Sarah is the Senior Minister at Community Christian Church on North Main Street. All three Sunday Evening Lenten Services were very well attended. In fact, we broke a modern record with Sunday evening Lenten services exceeding ninety for our five services! Pr. Ralph Edwards attracted a nice crowd of old friends; and he was the Ralph we knew and still love – funny, his heart on his sleeve, the genuine article, with a loving commitment to service. It was a wonderful taste of a past we cherish, filled with so many blessings.



Father Clarke brought a large contingent from St. Paul’s, and also a very impressive collection of crucifixes that represented Catholic piety around the world and across the ages. Our evening provided a great appreciation for how the theology of the cross informs the life of Catholics and Lutherans. We have enjoyed the ecumenical spirit with which Fr. Clarke has reached across the denominational divide to embrace us with combined Lenten and Advent services. St. Paul’s has been an engaging partner over the years; and we could not have been more pleased with his willingness to join us for the celebration of creating some new bicentennial memories. As it turned out, Fr. Clarke was a last minute substitute to help lead a tour to Rome right when Popes Francis and Benedict gathered in St. Peter’s Square to celebrate the canonization of Popes John Paul II and John XXIII.



On the Sunday evening of March 30, friends from Community Christian Church, longtime partners in offering support in kind and in cash for the ministry of our food pantry, introduced us to their Senior Minister, Rev. Sarah Taylor Peck, who joined

us with her husband Andrew, also a pastor, recently called to serve as the Senior Minister of Trinity UCC (off Fulton Drive). We enjoyed a delightful evening with great food, delicious desserts, vigorous singing, and encouraging words from a thoughtful colleague, who led the way in expressing appreciation for the good work that so many faithful volunteers do in serving people our Lord wants us never to forget, nor ever overlook.



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

**OUR 12TH ANNUAL  
MOTHER'S DAY  
BREAKFAST:**

**SUNDAY, MAY 11<sup>TH</sup>  
BETWEEN THE SERVICES  
9:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.**

Oven-Warmed Cinnamon Rolls

Breads of All Sorts

The Best of Juices

The Freshest Fruit

The Finest Coffees

Our Singing Chef's Egg Strata

Special Bicentennial Tribute:

10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Readings by the Youth of Zion



A Treasured Tradition, a Delicious Breakfast, a Treat for All  
Created and Designed, Baked and Burnt, by the Men of Zion

**MEN OF ZION NEWS**

The Men of Zion are busy making plans for this year's Mother's Day Breakfast. Once again, we will have six teams working on our plans for the Mother's Day Breakfast: the kitchen crew, set-up and clean-up, a fresh fruit salad team, along with breads and drinks. We are also working on a great program for the morning, with readings and singing, from children of all ages, including our Senior Choir and Zion's Praise Team; and don't anyone forget about the beautiful gesture of a single, long-stemmed red rose given to all the women who join us as a gift from the Men of Zion.

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

In the meantime, we would like to thank the men and women who joined in the fun of helping with our outdoor clean-up day to get us ready for the big day. We had a great group of mulchers, including Christopher Thompson, and his Mom, Laura, Cathy Harvey, Bob & Linda Lancashire, Cindy & Loren Burzycki, Dave Palumbo, Todd Elsass, John Rhodes, Carl Geib, Carol Rossbach, Jayne Schrader, Gary Horton, and Mark Votaw. What love and devotion! We thank you for your service.

## FINANCIAL GOOD NEWS

It's true that for the first time in three years, since the advent of Early Bird Giving, we ended the first quarter with a budget deficit, minuscule, to be sure, but still, a deficit balance of (\$118.06). We've enjoyed great support for special giving, like our new faceted stained glass windows, and our three bicentennial property projects approved in March; but total income of \$66,322.08 fell short of total expenses of \$66,440.14 by \$118.06. Isn't it kind of good to think of a deficit as an odd, perhaps rare, occurrence?

No sooner did we see this small deficit in March, when we erased it in April. First of all, April was an incredible month. We had total income of \$39,893.17! Much of that was focused on our bicentennial projects; but still, it's the same people in the same pews coming together to support our church. In the midst of this great month, from many perspectives, our income exceeded our expenses by \$235.48, leaving us with a year-to-date budget surplus of \$117.42. I guess you could say that we're cutting these lines so closely that everyone's giving makes a substantial difference.

### ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS FOR APRIL

April Income	39,893.17
April Expenses	<u>39,657.69</u>
<b>April Surplus</b>	<b>235.48</b>
Income through April	106,215.25
Expenses through April	<u>106,097.83</u>
<b>2014 YTD Surplus</b>	<b>117.42</b>
Bicentennial Gifts Fund	\$27,548.47
Our Food Pantry Fund	\$6,373.93
Zion's Youth Fund	\$7,787.52
2014 Advanced Giving	\$6,666.67

*We thank you for your generous support!*

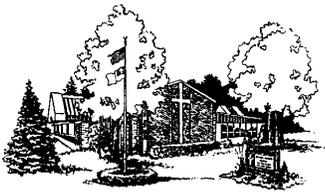
## CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

April's meeting occurred right on schedule at 7 p.m. on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Mark Votaw called the meeting to order. Vicki Givler led devotions. Also present were Juanita Cignetti, Dave Palumbo, Carol Rossbach, Cathy Harvey, Beth Shaheen, and Pastor Sherwindt. Brian Milek, Renee Keith, and Todd Elsass were excused. There was much ground to cover; but with deliberate focus, we concluded our business in less than an hour at 7:50 p.m.

Voting delegates are needed for the 2014 Northeastern Synod Assembly, May 15-17, when we will elect our new bishop to a six-year term. We have our own congregational meeting coming up on Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, when we will need to elect members to serve with the Church Council, Trustees, and Deacons. Cathy Harvey (Caring Ministry Elder), Vicki Givler (Parish Life Ministry Elder), Beth Shaheen (Resource Ministry Elder), and Juanita Cignetti (Church Council Secretary) have reached their term limits (two consecutive two-year terms), and while they are irreplaceable, we will need to find others to serve in their positions. It is also time to find a member to serve as our Witness Ministry Elder.

Among our Trustees, Betty Boettler has reached her term limit, while John Rhodes, Adam Schrader, and Todd Elsass are still willing and able to serve. Our Deacons are in fine shape. Our Congregational Meeting has been scheduled for the evening of May 28<sup>th</sup>, beginning with dinner at 6:15 p.m., and the meeting following at 7:00 p.m.

Much of our meeting focused on looking ahead to the end of Lent and our services for Holy Week, which, as we look back, all went very, very well. We were especially pleased with the support we received for this year's Sunday Evening Lenten Services.



## Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

349 Lindy Lane Ave NW  
North Canton, OH 44720

The Rev. Mark Sherwindt  
*Senior Pastor*

Mark A. Votaw,  
*Zion's President*

Frederick Locker,  
*Senior Choir Director*

Suzanne Walters,  
*Praise Team Leader*

Phil Lehenbauer,  
*Church Organist*

Miriam Keating,  
*Nursery Supervisor*

Tim Himbaugh,  
*Church Custodian*

Our Sunday Morning Schedule  
8:00 a.m. Traditional Service  
9:15 a.m. Our Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Contemporary Blend

The Church Office Is Open  
Monday through Friday  
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Office: 330-499-3909  
Office: 330-499-3913

*“Growing in Love  
and Service  
by Grace”  
from 1814  
to the Present*

# CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AT ZION WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2014

Dear Family of Zion:

This is a reminder of our Congregational Meeting on *Wednesday, May 28, 2014*, which begins with a dinner in Memorial Hall at 6:15 p.m. Current members of the Church Council will host and serve the dinner. Our meeting will follow in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. This is a great time for fellowship with your family at Zion.

Our Spring Meeting typically focuses on the election of members to serve with Church Council, the Deacons and Trustees. This year's May meeting will remain on that track. We trust that there are no conflicts with Memorial Day activities.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order, Opening Hymn, and Opening Prayer
2. Finalizing Nominations, and Voting for Candidates
3. Expressions of Gratitude for those who have served
4. The Lord's Prayer, our Dismissal and Adjournment

Please plan on attending the Congregational Meeting; and join us for the wonderful meal beforehand. I believe you will find pleasure in both!

This is a great time to show your support for Zion. I look forward to seeing you at our meeting. That's *Wednesday, May 28*, beginning with dinner at 6:15 p.m.

God's peace be with you,  
Mark A. Votaw,  
Church Council President

## CONGREGATIONAL DINNER, 6:15 PM CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, 7:00 PM

GREAT NEWS FROM ZION'S SUNDAY SCHOOL



**Happy Birthday to:**

**UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**Mother's Day, May 11:** Zion's Mother's Day Breakfast during the Sunday School Hour

**Mother's Day, May 11:** Special Bicentennial Tribute from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

**Sunday, June 1st:** The Last Sunday of the 2013-14 Sunday School Year: Let's have fun!

**Sunday, June 8th:** The Festival of Pentecost and the Rite of Confirmation: Wear Red!

**PRE-KINDERGARTEN THRU THE SIXTH GRADE**

During May and the first Sunday in June the children will finish up their classroom studies for this year. There will be no Sunday School on Mother's Day, May 11<sup>th</sup>, because we will all be enjoying the wonderful Mother's Day breakfast with our families hosted by the Men of Zion. This is such a wonderful tradition at Zion to celebrate our mothers.

Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, will be our last day of class for the 2013-14 Sunday School year. We will have a celebration with food, games, and fun that day to mark the end of a great year of lessons and activities. We will once again take a break this summer from Sunday School. We will start up again in September when we kick off the Sunday School year with Rally Day on Sunday, September 7, 2014, and classes will begin again on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>.

**WE HAVE OUR DATE FOR THE 2014 YOUTH MISSIONS CRAFT**

The *Youth Missions Craft Show & Oktoberfest* is on the calendar for *Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>*, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Based on last year's success, we are looking forward to renting more than 60 craft tables. If you know of crafters who might want to rent a table at our Craft Show, give us a call, or check out our website for all the latest information on what will be our *Eleventh Annual Youth Missions Craft Show & Oktoberfest*. That's *Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>*.

**HAVE FUN WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS AT THE AKRON ZOO: MAY 4TH**

We are looking forward to a great day at the Akron Zoo on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. We will leave from the church after the 10:30 a.m. service and caravan to the zoo. We will have drivers and chaperones for those kids whose parents are unable to attend. We will provide an incredible feast, called a picnic lunch, prepared by Randy Cizek and Mark Votaw, and served buffet style in our reserved pavilion at 1:00 p.m. We thank Jim and Elaine Fidler for helping to secure our reservation and tickets. After a fun time visiting all the animals, we will head home at 5:00 p.m. when the Akron Zoo closes. We are expecting a great day and a great response. So sign up as soon as you can! Everyone is welcome to invite friends and family to this event. We ask that each child and family donate a food item to our Food Pantry as part of this event. For every donated item, each child will receive one raffle ticket. These tickets will be placed in a drawing for a \$25 gift card. The Food Pantry is in need of canned fruit. Thanks for your support!

## MORE GOOD NEWS FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT ZION

### **THE CHILDREN'S EASTER PROGRAM: WHO WAS THAT MAN ON THE CROSS?**

We hope you enjoyed this year's Easter Program, *Who Was That Man on the Cross?*, as much as we did. The kids did an outstanding job as always. During the program, the children told us about many of the biblically-based names and roles of Jesus like friend, teacher, shepherd, preacher, physician, counselor, redeemer, carpenter, judge, servant, Master, Savior, Messiah, Emmanuel, Prince of Peace, Lord of Lords, King of Kings, Christ, and Lamb of God.



As they finished, each child put their sign with one of the names on a cross guarded by our special centurion. At the end, the cross with all of those names reminds us of *Who That Man on the Cross* was and the promise that comes through the sacrifice of his life and the victory of his resurrection. This cross, with all of its signs, still stands in the Sanctuary to remind us of our Children's Easter program, and of all the roles that Jesus continues to fill in our lives. He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

A big thank you to everyone who helped with the program! Thanks to the Sunday School teachers – Janet Slease, Connie Riffle, Nicole Milek, and Chrissie Parkomaki – for all their help during Sunday School, rehearsal, and the day of the program. A big thank you goes out to Brian Walters for his help with the sound system, and especially for everything he did to save the day with our props: the signs and cross that he made were awesome! Also, we want to thank Phil Lehenbauer for his accompaniment during the program.

### **A BIG HURRAH FOR YET ANOTHER EDITION OF ZION'S ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT!**

This year's Easter Egg Hunt was a lot of fun! On Easter morning, we hid 640 eggs filled with candy and other surprises. Because the weather was so great this year, we were able to hide all of the eggs outside so we could all enjoy the sun! Thanks to Eric Dague, Nathan Fox, and Cassie & Carley Frank for coming early to hide the eggs! After the big hunt, we all came in to enjoy milk, juice, and donuts, and to open up the eggs to see what surprises were inside. The children really look forward to this event each year, and it is always a big hit!



Thank you to everyone that donated candy and items for the eggs. We really appreciate your support! And a big thank you goes out to the High School and Catechism classes and their leaders for filling all of the eggs!

### **THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU TO ALL FOR OUR LENTEN DINNER!**

A big thank you to Jeff and Connie Frank for taking the lead for the Youth Lenten Dinner! We enjoyed a delicious penne and meatball dinner, with salad and homemade garlic bread. The desserts were beyond fantastic, and plentiful, too! Thanks to Tony Niesz for making his famous and fabulous desserts, and for helping in the kitchen. We all look forward to them at all of our meals! Thank you to all of our families who brought food and drinks, and for helping with set up, serving, and clean up. Thank you, Jeff Hissong, for a great program during the service. It was a great night, and we appreciate everyone's help and support!

## THE WOMEN OF ZION

Our year-long study of the stories of Biblical women concludes with Session 9 in May. Our Bible study focuses on *Rahab, a faithful business woman*. Our theme verse in Joshua 2:12. "Now then, since I have dealt kindly with you, swear to me by the LORD that you in turn will deal kindly with others." The lessons we learn change and vary, but our prayer remains the same: *Our hands can heal or harm, reach out or pull away. May God make the work of our hands a blessing. Amen*

Speaking about God's using us as a blessing, we'd like to thank everyone who responded to our invitation to use the Lenten season as a time for supporting the work of Lutheran World Relief with *Baskets of Hope*. We collected 26 bath towels, 68 toothbrushes, 81 combs, 67 nail clippers, and 90 bars of soap. With your help we made 26 personal care kits; and when we get more towels, we will make 26 more. Thank you all very much.

Just as a reminder, *the Women of Zion* meet monthly for a Bible study in the Resource Center on the third Tuesday, which is May 20<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 9:30 a.m. All are welcome. Everyone is invited. Make it a point to join us. You'll be glad you did; and so will we.

*Zion's Comfort Givers* meet in Luther Hall on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, which in May are the 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 9:30 a.m. You are invited to join us. You'll be surprised by how comfortable it can be and how much fun it is to sew with us.

*The Chancel Guild* reports that our new liquid candles are a hit. They burn with oil, are easy to fill, and require less attention in preparing for our many worship services. They look absolutely beautiful. We thank Carl Geib and Brian Walters for reworking the candelabras for a perfect fit.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

The weekend of **June 14–15** is very big for Zion. We begin with a *Joint Celebration of our Bicentennial* at our original site on Pittsburg Road. Zion United Church of Christ and the North Canton Cemetery Association are joining with us to commemorate the Bicentennial Anniversary of our founding back in 1814. We'll be under the big tent pitched in the cemetery along Pittsburg Road. Refreshments are served at 9:00 a.m.; the service begins at 10:00 a.m. There will be special guests, special music, words of greeting from many, and two baptisms to commemorate this historic day.

Then, in the evening we will return for our supremely delicious *Bicentennial Prime Rib Dinner*, which begins with a social hour at 6:00 p.m., our dinner served buffet style, and a special Bicentennial Program to follow in the Sanctuary. Brian Walters is putting the finishing touches on his video documentary. Brian does great work, and this video is looking exceptional. The Senior Choir will offer an anthem. The Praise Team will contribute one of their favorites. Expect surprises, as we host friends and family, former interns and former pastors, colleagues from the North Canton area and the Canton-Massillon Conference. That's 6:00 p.m. the evening of June 14<sup>th</sup>. Tickets for the dinner are available everywhere, and are an incredible bargain for \$20 per person!

The next morning we will gather for worship to hear greetings from the Northeastern Ohio Synod, a message of hope from *Pastor Louise Mollick*, with guests from our past to helping us usher in a third century of life together in Christ. The theme for Holy Trinity Sunday is the Great Commission: *Go, therefore, and grow in love and service by grace*, to which all of us willingly extend a heartfelt *Amen!*

## MORE BICENTENNIAL NEWS

They're in! Our *Bicentennial Ornaments* have arrived, and they are available for sale at the low, low price of \$10 apiece. These Christmas tree ornaments commemorate Old Zion Church, encircled with words that are displayed below:



Of course, they are more attractive when seen in their gift box on the display table in the Narthex; but our custom design comes to life in this flat etched metal ornament, which is finished in gold. When you join us for worship, you will agree that Darlene Milavickas and our Bicentennial Task Force have created yet another attractive way to remember a very special year for Zion.

We're also working on a T-shirt design that features our Bicentennial logo. Those who volunteer to help with serving at our Bicentennial Prime Rib Dinner will get one for free! So look for the sign-up sheet and volunteer as soon as you can. This might be a good time to thank the Task Force for taking the lead in keeping our focus on the great things God has done both for us and through us, literally, across the centuries. Let's commit ourselves to making these next couple of months a tribute to God's glory and an expression of our gratitude.

## MORE IMPORTANT DATES

**2014 Northeastern Ohio Synod Assembly** is set for Thursday through Saturday, May 15 – 17, at the John S. Knight Center in Akron. This year's theme is *Always Being Made New: Electing Our Synod's Bishop*. A list of candidates has been presented, including a number of pastors with Canton-Massillon Conference connections: Pastors Abraham Allende (formerly of Trinity, Canton), Chip Belanga (Holy Trinity, Massillon), Timothy Muse, (St. Paul's, Alliance), Bruce Roth (St. Stephen Martyr, Canton), Ken Scheck II (formerly of Zion, Raff Road). We will be called to order on Thursday, with worship at 6:00 p.m. The balloting begins at 7:30 p.m. By the time we adjourn on Saturday at 12:15 p.m., we may not have white smoke shooting forth from the John S. Knight Center; but we will know who the Synod's next bishop will be!

IN LOVING MEMORY OF RICHARD W. FINDLAY, JR.

(October 11, 1937 – April 23, 2014)

I didn't know Dick's father, Pastor Richard Findlay, who served as Zion's Visitation Pastor from 1981 until 1998. But I did know his mother, who was called to her home in heaven on August 18, 2005. Here is how I began the sermon I preached when we gathered in our Sanctuary for her Service of Christian Burial: "Who could not love Betty Findlay? She was such a whole-heartedly, supportive woman, whose upbeat love for the Lord and active interest in the life of the church was contagious!" Dick, too, was a whole-heartedly, supportive person, whose upbeat love for the Lord and active interest in the life of our church was visibly apparent, wholly authentic, very much appreciated, and one of the many reasons I was blessed to call Dick Findlay my friend.

Pastor Findlay came to ordained ministry late in life. One of the Reiss boys, one of three sons of the congregation ordained for Christian ministry back in 1954, suggested to Pastor Findlay that their two sons were helpful in the process of the Lord's getting his attention to respond to God's call with what turned out to be a lifelong YES! Both Pastor Findlay and Betty wore their desire to discern and do God's will on their shirt sleeves, as well as valuing this faithfulness in their hearts and minds. *What Would Jesus Do? What would God's will have us do today?* These were questions the Findlays asked daily. They also wondered why, even as they praised God for opportunities to witness to God's goodness and live their faith in love, why their lives changed so with the birth of their two sons. They came to conclude that this was one of the ways God got their attention.

That report reminded me of the long story from the ninth chapter of John, which we read several weeks before Easter during Lent. "Lord, why was this man born blind?" Jesus knew why. He sensed a miracle coming on, and could see that this man would become the occasion for many to stand in awe of God's presence, and give glory to God for the great and mighty deeds of love that would be made manifest. "This man was born blind so that God might be glorified." (John 9:3b) Our struggle with disability in life is not simply a sign that life's not perfect; it is the occasion to witness great things that honor the power of love and give great glory to our gracious God. This explanation wasn't an explanation for any single life, but for all of our lives as we worship and serve together. The man himself, blind from birth, came to praise God for God's great glory and goodness. The community of friends who knew the man and his family came to praise God. Jesus' disciples came to praise God; and Jesus, too, was able to praise God for the great glory of His goodness with which He loves and embraces each and every one of us.

I mention this story, not because I am looking for an explanation, but because I value the gift of friendship and community God has given me in Dick, the gifts of friendship and community God has given us through Dick. He was a good friend, not only because he befriended me and my family from the moment I arrived as Zion's Pastor, not only because he was always enthusiastic in his praise of my sermons, although that was nice, not only because he loved attending church and always looked forward to it; he was a good friend precisely because he loved God, and in expressing his love for God, he encouraged us to do the same. Dick didn't need to be able to speak like angels. He didn't need to preach like Paul. He was a natural at sharing the love of Jesus, saying that he died for all. As the old hymn says, "If you cannot rouse the wicked with the judgment's dread alarm, you can lead the little children to the Savior's waiting arms." (*Lutheran Book of Worship*, #381, *Hark! The Voice of Jesus Calling*) Dick Findlay heard the voice of Jesus calling, and helped us all to embrace that call with fervent faith, joyous gratitude, and diet coke!

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