

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN?

Our long season of bicentennial anniversary celebrations is almost over! We enjoyed a great weekend on the Saturday and Sunday of June 14—15. We were all nicely surprised with really great attendance at our combined service at the cemetery on Saturday morning. More than 200 persons joined us as Zion Lutheran, Zion United Church of Christ, and the North Canton Cemetery celebrated their bicentennial anniversaries! Mayor David Held was present as the city of North Canton honored this event with three mayoral proclamations. Our former Assistant Pastor, Louise Mollick, and our first Intern, Bob Linsz, joined Pastor Sherwindt in representing our side of the Zion connection. Pastors Eli Klingensmith and Gary Smith represented Zion United Church of Christ. Fred Locker, Chris Robinson, and Ralph Morrison led a huge combined choir. Drew Michael Keith and Bailey Elizabeth Witmer were there with their families to celebrate the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Everyone marveled at how great attendance was, how perfect the weather was, what a great job the cemetery crew did in getting everything ready, and just how perfect this combined service turned out to be.

What a great morning! Then came our Bicentennial Anniversary Prime Rib Dinner, and there were no disappointments. The Singing Chef prepared the best prime rib ever, with Tony Niesz wowing everyone yet again with a dessert spread that was to die for. The food was out of this world. Our many guests brought great honor to Zion with their presence. Brian Walters' video narrative of Zion's two hundred years of growing in love and service by grace was a professional masterpiece. Jim Fidler had some very kind words for Pastor Sherwindt and Marilyn; and Mark Votaw kept everyone in stitches with his loving and humorous take in portraying Pastor Sherwindt as *the Sermonator* saving the world *one dinner ticket at a time!* We actually sold 270 tickets to the prime rib dinner, which turned out to be a great fundraiser for covering our many expenses for our year-long celebration of our bicentennial.

The next morning found a warm welcome for Pastor Louise Mollick, who served Zion from 1992 to 1995. At one point during her sermon, when bringing greetings from Carl, Daniel, Jessica, and Steven, she shared how they began enjoying their memories with a little ritual called *remember when: Remember when* we competed in the Bible Bowl with Bridget Edwards, who was the best coach ever?! *Remember when* the youth group invited everyone to the Bethlehem Inn to retell the story of Jesus' birth, just as if it were happening right then and there, how we all went outside and there was a stable with live animals, a donkey, a llama, and a pot belly pig, all surrounding the holy family? *Remember when* everyone who came to worship was given a Burger King crown just to make sure that everyone knew that it was Christ the King Sunday? And somehow, that crown, along with the gospel message, transformed us into kingdom people.

There were many more *remember when* moments shared from the pulpit, and then between the services at our reception for Louise. It sparked my interest in inviting all of you to join in the fun of *remembering when*. I've included an insert, which asks you to offer a few such moments. Have some fun in thinking through some of those precious moments that have drawn us closer to one another and to God through the ministry and history we share. I'll find a forum for sharing some of the responses we receive, and you'll enjoy the exercise of reflecting on the many ways God has blessed us through our connection at Zion.

Celebrating Zion's Bicentennial!

Words of Thanks from Friends and Colleagues

From our friends at Community Christian Church:

Sam and I want to thank you for the tasty gifts from Harry & David's. We always enjoy their products. That was very thoughtful of you. Your recognition of our church and, in particular, our Koinonia Sunday School Class was wonderful. Everyone enjoyed the meal, and the program was very warm and friendly. Thanks from everyone at Community Christian Church.

*Barb and Sam Bacon
Partners in our Food Pantry Ministry*

Here's a Wonderful Voice from our Past:

Thank you very much for your gracious inclusion of Sally and me in your anniversary dinner. It was a joy to see the vibrant ministry at Zion. The video narrative produced by Brian Walters was tremendous! May God continue to bless your witness in North Canton for 200 more years.

*Curtis Yeager Frank & Sally
Son of Pastor Howard Yeager (1938-44)*

From one of several memorable Interim Pastors:

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and Jesus Christ. It is with the joy of the Gospel that I share with you some thoughts about 200 years of your faithful ministry in North Canton.

I remember the years 1984-85 when I was privileged to serve as your Interim Pastor. Some of my memories are of our unique worship experiences, instrumental soloists, introducing the *Lutheran Book of Worship* to you, and the warm reception my wife and I received when we first came to you.

Little did I understand while I was with you the positive influence Zion has had in the area over the 200 years of its existence. That you continue to share the good news of Jesus is a witness to the power of the Holy Spirit still and ever at work among you. May God continue to bless you as you go on to serve our Risen Lord another 200 years!

*Thomas T. Baumgardner, Interim Pastor
Interim between the tenures of Pastors Meuschke and Lutz*

Here's a Voice We've Come to Love a Lot:

Many thanks for so many things as we celebrated Zion's Bicentennial Anniversary together: for the gift bags for Sarah and Kate on Mother's Day, for breakfast, for dinner and wine, for the worship service, and the video narrative of Zion's two hundred years. It was great to renew old acquaintances and meet new friends. We had a good time. Thank you!

*Jim & Kate Lutz
Zion Lutheran Church, 1985-1997*

Celebrating Zion's Bicentennial!

Words of Thanks from Friends and Colleagues

The four decades over which the tenures of three Senior Pastors presided – Pastor Walter Ruth (1957-1968), Pastor Kurt Meuschke (1968-1984) and Pastor James Lutz (1985-1997) – were years of unparalleled growth and generosity. Membership exploded with demographic trends that helped make Zion one of Stark County's largest Lutheran congregations during this period. Generosity as measured by support of the mission of the wider church, otherwise known as Mission Support, grew to extraordinary levels. While it is difficult to identify all the relevant factors that enable congregations to excel in their generous support of the work of the wider church, the tenure of Pastor Lutz provided an apt peak, with the years 1989 through 1994 averaging \$40,000 in annual support for ministries of the ELCA, and an average of \$27,000 explicitly identified as Mission Support for the Northeastern Ohio Synod. While not all tenures have matched those totals, Zion has always taken great pride in supporting the work of the church generously. The last twelve years have continued our tradition of generosity. The next two notes express the gratitude with which Bishop Dillahunt from the Southern Ohio Synod and Deaconess Judy Hoshek from the Northeastern Ohio Synod received our bicentennial gifts:

“This is what Yahweh asks of you; only this, to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8) Thank you so much for your special anniversary gift. It was great to be with you the Sunday of June 15th, as you gave thanks for 200 years of God's blessings.

*Judy Hoshek, Assistant to the Bishop
The Northeastern Ohio Synod, ELCA*

“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” (Psalm 118:24) What a blessing it was to spend the Sunday of May 18th with the good people of Zion. Thank you! Thanks, too, for the generous gift to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund for mission and ministry. We appreciate your partnership.

*Bishop Suzanne Darcy Dillahunt
The Southern Ohio Synod, ELCA*

Here's a Letter from Our Partners at St. Paul's on South Main:

Thank you and thank the Zion Lutheran faith community for the warm welcome and fine dinner on Sunday (back during Lent on March 23rd). Thank you for your words of affirmation and commendation for our mutual efforts to support and promote a spirit of fraternity in the area of ecumenical cooperation. May the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you, always.

*The Rev. Msgr. Jay Clarke
St. Paul's Catholic Church*

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

Our Council Meeting in June took place between June 8th, when former Intern, Pastor Mike Wiechers, joined us on Confirmation Sunday and the big Bicentennial Weekend of June 14—15. We had a lot on our plate. Present for the meeting were Mark Votaw, Dave Palumbo, Cathy Harvey, Carol Rossbach, Vicki Givler, Dale Jacobs, Beth Shaheen, and Pastor Sherwindt. Our primary business involved making sure that we were ready for the weekend.

In his Treasurer’s Report Dave Palumbo provided news of a hefty deficit for the month of May. Overall income, including contributions to our Bicentennial Gifts Fund, were well above last year’s levels. Zion’s members and friends have been very generous with us this year. We were surprised, however, to find that, despite having four Sundays in May, each with its own bicentennial celebration, the operating budget fell well behind our expenses.

<u>ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS FOR MAY</u>	
May Income	\$ 16,504.18
May Expenses	\$ <u>20,014.64</u>
May Deficit	(\$ 3,510.46)
Income through May	\$ 94,786.78
Expenses through May	\$ <u>98,179.82</u>
2014 YTD Deficit	(\$ 3,393.04)
Total YTD Income 2014	\$127,369.53
Total YTD Income 2013	\$101,225.79

When it comes to “Total” Income, which includes all giving, including designated gifts to the Bicentennial Gifts Fund, and other designated funds, too, we are well ahead of last year’s giving. But in terms of the Operating Budget, we are behind.

Thank you for your generous support!

MORE COUNCIL NEWS

The Council Meeting in July was the first meeting for our newly elected Council, and our first Council Meeting with our Bicentennial Anniversary behind us. Mark Votaw called our meeting to order at 7 p.m. Also present were Brian Milek, Carol Rossbach, Dave Palumbo, Heather Hoffman, Todd Elsass, Dale Jacobs, Renee Keith, Jim Fidler and Pastor Sherwindt. After attending to our business, we adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

The ground we lost in May was made up in June. Overall giving is still great, and now we are able to celebrate a surplus at the half-way point. Operating budget income in June exceeded our expenses by \$3,893.47. Year-to-date income through June has exceeded year-to-date expenses by \$500.43. Summer is a tough time for keeping income in line with expenses; but it sure is nice to enter these summer months with a slight surplus.

In terms of our bicentennial projects, we have completed two projects: our faceted stained glass windows and our parking lot resealing. We have two projects left to do: the kitchen and the parking lot overhangs. Both should be completed by summer’s end.

<u>ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS FOR JUNE</u>	
June Income	\$ 25,421.49
June Expenses	\$ <u>21,528.02</u>
June Surplus	\$ 3,893.47
Income through June	\$120,208.27
Expenses through June	\$ <u>119,707.84</u>
2014 YTD Surplus	\$ 500.43
Zion’s Youth Fund	\$ 6,837.46
The Food Pantry Fund	\$ 6,482.12
Bicentennial Gifts Fund	\$ 13,648.57

Thank you for your generous support!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: JOIN US IN GOD'S BIG BACKYARD!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS ... RIGHT NOW:
 JULY 21—25, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
 MONDAY TO THURSDAY, 9 a.m. to Noon
 ON FRIDAY, IT'S WATER DAY, WITH PIZZA!
 WE'LL MEET FROM 9:00 A.M. TIL 2:30 P.M.

We have something new planned this year! We will be changing the time and format of Vacation Bible School this year. We know it will be a great program, and everyone will have a great time!

Vacation Bible School will now go from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and then from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Friday so that we can have a celebration day to end our week! Registration and sign in will begin each day at 8:45 a.m. so that we can get our morning started right at 9:00 a.m., which will help us get more out of our shortened time! We will still have our Ice Cream Social on Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m., and we will still have a full 9:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. on Friday to celebrate Water Day with a Pizza Party!

Join us as we have a great week of fun, learning, and service in **God's Big Backyard!** The week will be all about service, with our five themes inviting us to Serve Family, Serve Friends, Serve our Neighbors, Serve the Community and, of course, Serve Jesus. There will be great lessons and great music, along with games, snacks, crafts, and, of course, service projects.

Our VBS program is designed for children age 4 through those who have completed 5th grade. Our youth who have completed 6th grade and higher are invited to help during the week. We have many volunteer and service opportunities that will be planned for these youth! Registration packets are available in the Church Office. Please turn in your completed forms by **Friday, July 18th**, to help us order sufficient supplies. We will still accept registrations during the week of Vacation Bible School if space is available.

We have a busy week planned! We'll get started on Monday in **God's Big Backyard** with lots of fun and activities! Wednesday will be T-Shirt day: each child will need a white T-shirt with their name on the label by pick up time on Tuesday. Thursday evening is our *Ice Cream Social* at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to join us that evening for our VBS Program, and then for ice cream and fellowship. We will have our *Quilt Raffle* that evening. Finally, Friday will be our Big Backyard 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 sunscreen! Of course, we will have lessons, crafts, music, games, service projects and snacks each day as well!

We are all looking forward to a great week for our kids, for our staff, and for our parents, too, as we all learn about serving God by serving others! Plan to join us, and bring your friends!

JOIN US FOR A WEEK OF SERVICE IN GOD'S BIG BACKYARD

We will again focus on service this year, a great tradition at Zion's Vacation Bible School. We have planned many service projects, some familiar and some different. The children will experience how important serving others and God is in their lives! We hope they will see that no matter how old you are, you can truly make a difference! The following offers a glimpse of this year's service projects:



THE OFFERING: There will be a contest each day between the boys and girls to collect change as our offering. Each team will have a jar and the most money collected wins! This money will then be donated to Zion's Food Pantry.

OUR 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 over a dozen years. With unemployment still a problem and gas prices sky high, there has never been as great a need for this ministry as right now.

QUILT SQUARES: The children will once again create quilt squares for Zion's Quilters to sew quilts for Lutheran World Relief. We will raffle one quilt, which the winner gets to choose, on Thursday evening at the Ice Cream Social. Tickets will be available during the week. As is our practice, it's one ticket for a dollar, and six tickets for five dollars. Join us for all the fun!

DAILY PROJECTS: This, too, is one of the staples in our commitment to service, as children will work on several service projects throughout the week both at Zion and at home.

SCHOOL KITS: We will be collecting items for putting together school kits to help children in our community as we look ahead to the start of the school year in August. 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 24th. If anyone in the congregation is interested in donating items, 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; but we are still in need of volunteers for the week. Please consider joining us one, two, or all five days. It truly is a rewarding and enjoyable experience with a great group of kids! We have also put out sign-up sheets in Luther Hall for lots of food and supplies needed for the week, along with donation cans for those who are interested in helping. If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer, please call Debbie Fox at 330-966-2433, or the Church Office at 330-499-3909. As always, thank you in advance for your great support!

Growing in Love and Service in God's Big Backyard

GREAT NEWS FROM ZION'S SUNDAY SCHOOL



Happy Birthday to:

UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

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

Monday, July 21: *God's Big Backyard (Serve FAMILY)*: Registration at 8:45 a.m.

Tuesday, July 22: *God's Big Backyard (Serve FRIENDS)*: Bring a T-Shirt Today

Wednesday, July 23: *God's Big Backyard (Serve NEIGHBORS)*: It's T-Shirt Day

Thursday, July 24: *God's Big Backyard (Serve COMMUNITY)*: Enjoy this evening, too!

Friday, July 25: *God's Big Backyard (Serve JESUS)*: It's Water Day & Pizza for Lunch!

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 you just read all about it on pages 6 and 7. We're going to have lots of fun, with plenty of opportunities for service, as we spend a week in *God's Big Backyard*. Make it a point to join in the fun and the service; and bring a friend!

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND OUR END-OF-THE-SUMMER PARTY

How it happened, it's hard to say; but five years ago we decided to have an End-of-the-Summer Party on the Sunday of Labor Day Weekend. We have come to call it the "Great Grill Off" because many of our men enjoyed letting all of us see what they could do with a little bit of imagination and a whole lot of grill. I soon found out that we weren't talking about your grandfather's grill. We added some music, and sides, and created a great event, which turned into an extraordinary fundraiser. This year we are using our End-of-the-Summer Party to retire all the expenses we incurred in celebrating our Bicentennial Anniversary with special speakers, honored guests, and many gifts. We'd like to raise around \$1,750 to put the finishing touch on the \$5,000 we raised through dinners, plates, ornaments, and T-shirts.

Our big question involves determining which Sunday works best. We started it on the Sunday of Labor Day Weekend because it wasn't competing with anything. If members had Labor Day Weekend plans, that was fine. But what happened is that we became a lot of people's Labor Day Weekend plans! It was great. Last year we decided to combine our End-of-the-Summer Party with Rally Day in the hope that more of our young families would be able to enjoy the tradition we had created. That worked better for some, but not for others. Since the schools are starting so early this year, pretty much all of our kids will be back in school during the week of August 17, which means that some will be in school for almost two weeks when Labor Day Weekend arrives. So, here are the questions: Will you be more likely to attend our End-of-the-Summer Party on August 31 or September 7? Do both Sundays work, or does neither work for you and your family? Watch out for the surveys we include in our Sunday bulletins.

TRANSITIONS IN MUSIC

In a very moving letter shared with all members of the Senior Choir, Fred Locker offered his deep gratitude for the wonderful support he has received here at Zion since 2006, when he and Phil Lehenbauer first began alternating as organists at the 8:00 a.m. service on Sunday mornings. A couple of years later, Fred stepped in to become our Senior Choir Director. We have enjoyed many years, many anthems, and many special musical programs since, with soloists and musicians from Jackson High School, the Jacks 'n Jills, Kent State, and the Kent State Stark Chorale. He also wanted us to know that he has felt God calling him in a new direction, and with the opening of a full-time position at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Massillon, he decided to embrace the challenges that began as his program year responsibilities were winding up here at Zion. June 29th was Fred's last Sunday at Zion. The Senior Choir was there to express our deep gratitude for his excellent leadership as we wished him well with his new responsibilities at St. Joe's.

When we approached Phil Lehenbauer about the prospects of increasing his role on Sunday morning, we discovered that, like Fred, Phil's life in retirement has also changed. With his parents moving to the Orlando area for retirement and rehab (following his Dad's stroke), Phil decided that it was time for him to relocate his life in the sunshine state, too. He will play through August, and then head south to help his parents with their transition, while he looks for something in the Fort Lauderdale area. We understand his desire to be closer to his parents and further away from our crazy weather in northeast Ohio! We are so thankful to God and grateful to Phil and Fred for the many ways in which they have blessed us in our life together at Zion.

THANK YOU'S & MORE

Dear Pastor and our Zion Family,

I would like to thank you for coming to my 90th birthday party. It was great to see everyone. Thank you, too, for your donation to Zion in my name.

*God's peace and blessings,
Ellis Le Beau*

Dear Friends and Members of Zion,

Marilyn and I would like to thank the Church Council, the congregation, and especially Mark Votaw and Jim Fidler for their kind and funny words, as well as the great gifts, which were shared during the program following the Bicentennial Anniversary Prime Rib Dinner on June 14th. The special plate and matching T-shirt are classics! Please accept our deepest thanks for the love and support so wonderfully expressed. Your special presentation was a great surprise, and very much appreciated.

All of us worked incredibly hard to honor the moment of our Bicentennial Anniversary. Special speakers, honored guests, a daily devotional guide, plates, ornaments, a video narrative, two prime rib dinners, new faceted stained glass windows, bicentennial property projects: I am sure that I speak for many of us in saying that it sometimes seemed like an endless marathon of planning events and promoting them; I am proud of the effort we put forth as well as the results we enjoyed.

I look forward to one last opportunity to honor the moment of our Bicentennial with an *End-of-the Summer Party* (at a date soon to be determined). Let's make sure we enjoy the fun now, so we can look back with gratitude for all that God has given us at Zion.

*May God's richest blessings be yours,
Pastor Mark Sherwindt & Marilyn*

THANK YOU'S & MORE

To our Zion Family and Friends,

First, we would like to express our thanks for a wonderful Bicentennial Celebration at North Canton Cemetery on June 14th. Having Drew's baptism there really made it a special and memorable moment. Everything was perfect, from the weather, to all the people, to the celebration of welcoming Drew into God's kingdom.

Also, thank you for the nice gift basket. The blankets, soaps, and toys were a welcome surprise. Everything will be enjoyed! Thanks again for everything. We look forward to our children growing up in such a wonderful, loving, and supportive church!

Josh, Renee, Ben, and Drew Keith

THE WOMEN OF ZION

Zion's Comfort Givers will join forces with Vacation Bible School during the week of July 21 through 25 to have a great time with our kids, and a busy time of sewing. We will meet Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to Noon in Luther Hall. It's always nice to have a few additional sewers during VBS. So please join us. You'll be glad you did; and so will we. It's very rewarding and lots of fun.

Zion's Comfort Givers give thanks for the gift given by the family of Betty Lenz to help with our work and the ministry of Vacation Bible School. Betty's brother, Charles Smith, and nephews, Warren and Ben Lenz, offered the gift, and Linda Lenz took the lead in directing it to us and VBS. Thank you very much.

Women's Summer Monthly Bible Study: We continue the new course we began in June. "We are women of many generations, many ages, many places, and many experiences. We have a calling to come, learn, and serve together, as well as to rebuild, repair, and restore not only our own relationships, but also the world around us." Session 2 focuses on *Mary's Song, the Magnificat* (Luke 1:46-50). Feel free to join us. We meet on the third **Tuesday, July 15th**, in the Resource Center at 9:30 a.m. We've got a great lesson and a great group. We'll hope to see you there!

The Women of Zion would like to thank everyone who responded to our invitation first issued during Lent to use the Lenten season (and the time since) as an opportunity to support the work of Lutheran World Relief with *Baskets of Hope*. We continue to receive your gifts. We have already made fifty personal care kits, and if you will be so kind as to contribute more bars of soap and towels, we have enough of our other items to make still more! We thank you all very much.

OUR BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION AT THE CEMETERY

(Pastor Sherwindt's Remarks: June 14, 2014, North Canton Cemetery)

Michael J. Fox, Christopher Lloyd, as Marty McFly and Emmet "Doc" Brown, along with Crispin Glover, and Thomas Wilson as Biff, Giff, and Mad Dog Buford Tannen. These are not the names we know from *Old Zion Church*: "Reemsnyder, Kreighbaum, Roush, and Holl; Boettler, Miller, Sheets, Bach and Strohl." Marty and Doc starred in a sci-fi breakthrough in 1985 known as *Back to the Future*, which used the iconic symbol of a DeLorean, the power of plutonium, and the imaginative magic box known as a *flux capacitor* to capture the imagination and interest of fans of the silver screen. The DeLorean in reality never made it off the blocks. It was all hype, and nothing more. The *flux capacitor* got me believing that Jim Ignitowski from the television series *Taxi* really was the greatest genius of all time, or, at least, of time travel. But that name, *Back to the Future*, that's a classic, truly iconic, catchy, and pretty interesting.

Today is not going back to the past of 1985 in Hill Valley, California. It's not even about going back to the past of 1814 in New Berlin, although here we are on Pittsburg Road in the North Canton Cemetery, the original site of the founding of Old Zion Church two hundred years ago today, recalling names, both Reformed and Lutheran, that followed God's lead on a journey that would twist and turn through two centuries of American history to sustain a witness to the goodness of God's grace and the vibrancy of God's people. It wasn't plutonium stolen on the black market, but the Holy Spirit poured out liberally, freely, graciously to all, starting with Pentecost and continuing through to this present moment, as we still long to be used by God to change the world as God changes us for good, God's good, the good of God's kingdom.

It wasn't Robert Zemeckis, but a German Lutheran with Reformed connections named Wolfhart Pannenberg, who coined a term that was far less catchy back in the 1970s to say about Jesus what Doc had in mind for Marty McFly. For Pannenberg it was *proleptic anticipation* – not as snappy as *back to the future*, nor as simple as Old Zion Church, but a phrase that in its own technical way gets us back in the present with our focus on a past that is pointing the way to the future. Pannenberg used the term *proleptic anticipation* to say that Jesus and his resurrection are a glimpse of the future, God's ultimate future for all creation, present in the kingdom Jesus proclaimed, the kingdom his life embodied, the kingdom his resurrection established for all eternity. The resurrection gives us a glimpse of God's original intent and ultimate aim, a glimpse of life in Christ, which is alive in the church, pointing to the future God wants us to live here and now. We affirm this future with the simple truths we proclaim in Baptism, where the power of God's Spirit, the promise of God's Word, and the support of God's people provide a feel for God's love and a sense of God's faithfulness, seeds for an abiding hope in the future that will be ours through Christ our Lord.

Two hundred years ago today in this place German immigrant families living in a new land came together around the presence of God's grace, which moved them with hope for the future to form Old Zion Church. Today it is names like Bailey Witmer and Drew Keith, standing on the shoulders of the generations that preceded them, that help all of us see that what we have here is more than Andy Warhol's image of fifteen minutes in the spotlight. What we have here is a light that lifts the hopes of the world to long for more than just surviving another day, to long for the more that God's grace makes possible: love for today and hope for tomorrow; love that demands justice and works for it; love that is more than empty words and pious platitudes, but deeds and actions that make our Lord visible. Let's get back to that future, which, indeed, is already ours ... in Jesus' name. Amen