

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR:

Holy Week arrived with a Palm Sunday parade. The Royal Son of David, who was promised the Messiah's throne, turned his focus from a crown of glory to the glory of the Cross. Maundy Thursday emphasized the role of love in the reign of God: "A new commandment I give you, that you love one another as I have loved you." (John 13:34) The look of love then changed with Good Friday. With the Cross in view, love would never look the same. In Christ on the Cross, we see a God who suffers with us and for us. The Cross is the how God embraces a world filled with sinners. The simple truth is that with the Cross our vision of God and our understanding of love change forever. Paul said it in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians: "We preach Christ Crucified, a scandal to some and foolishness to others, but to those who are called, the Cross of Christ is the power of God's love embodied and the wisdom of God's ways revealed." (1:23-24)

There is a classic text that is chosen for the Second Sunday of Easter every year. When the tomb was found empty on that first Easter morn, Jesus quickly found the disciples to announce the Good News of his Resurrection. All were present, except Thomas. This classic text describes what happened eight days later, on the evening of the first Sunday after Easter. The disciples were in a room, hidden behind locked doors, when Jesus entered miraculously, precisely to help Thomas with the proof he had devised. "Put your finger here, and see my hands; put out your hand, and place it in my side." (John 20:27) Touch the print of the nails. Feel the slash of the sword in my side. Make the connection. Prove the link forever. The Risen Lord is the Crucified Christ. The suffering and death of Jesus were not faked, imagined, or simply a figment of smoke and mirrors. There on the Cross in the blood outpoured was proof of God's love, the gift of God's life given for us so that we might share in the life of the Risen Lord for all eternity.

The Gospel from John is the perfect text to explain why the Easter Window repeats the theme that is at the heart of the Lenten Window, which is the Cross of Christ. In the Lenten Window, the Cross is scarlet red in a background of Lenten purple: the blood of Christ is poured out that we might find our way through Christ's death to new life. The Easter Window displays the Cross in a field of white and gold, the colors of life and glory. Lilies bloom at the foot of the Cross. A darkened tomb gives way to the new life of resurrection. Let the light shine. He who once was dead now lives! The glory of God surrounds the Cross with victory and establishes the Cross as the sign of life's triumph over the forces of evil and the power of death. All of this is most certainly true, proven with the proof of St. Thomas, who forever linked the Risen Lord with the Crucified Christ. The One who now lives is forever the same as the One who died on the Cross for us. Thomas touched the nail prints in his hands, and felt the slash of the sword in his side. Let there be no doubters. Jesus is the Christ. By his stripes, we are healed. Through his death, we now live ... and not just now, but forever!

These are the truths we tell with our Easter Window. The Cross embodies the love of God, the life of God, the promise of God, and the faithfulness of God. It is the insignia of salvation, the form God's love takes, the content of love's essence. The Cross is the defining moment of true glory. This is confirmed through the power of the resurrection, when the Lord of life makes it clear that the Risen Christ is one and the same with the Crucified Jesus, now and forever. Amen

## CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

President Mark Votaw called our March meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Jim Fidler, Resource Ministry Elder, offered devotions. Our business was focused almost entirely on the challenges of moving forward on our desire to make mutual support the centerpiece of our efforts to enjoy yet another Lenten season of Sunday evening dinners and devotions. We adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

We finalized the details about membership activity in 2014, which recorded a net gain of three baptized members to 487, and a net gain of three confirmed members to 416. Looking ahead toward Pentecost, we will welcome three baptized members in the ranks of the confirmed with the Rite of Confirmation: Summer Heller, Kathryn Milek, and Mallory Rhodes. Eight younger members of Renee Keith's Catechism Class are preparing for a 2016 celebration of Confirmation: Justin Dague, Jeremy Fox, Cassie Frank, Chrissy Nicholson, Emma Parkomaki, Jacob Parkomaki, Marcus Rhodes, and Casey Walters.

The Treasurer's Report for February provided yet another reminder of the fact that winter has been very costly for us, with higher utility bills and more calls for snowplowing and salting. Two monthly deficits have left us with a year-to-date deficit of \$1,440.43. However, we have received very generous support with Early Bird Giving; and these contributions have made a timely difference as we look at the prospect of moving toward balance with what should be a healthy monthly surplus in March. We would like to thank everyone for their active interest and ongoing support in helping to make sure that we received the income we needed to keep up with winter's expenses.

## PROPERTY MINISTRY NEWS

**Property Ministry Update:** It is still a shock trying to get used to losing rental partners who have been with us for close to fourteen years. The men at the parsonage made their move at the end of February, and Senior Independence moved all of the tables and chairs they'd collected over the years on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Since that time we heard from Arlene Fouts that her Betty Bixler Pre-School has reached a point where she plans to draw her decades-long run to an end with the conclusion of this present school year. When it rains, it pours; and we're not talking about Morton's salt. While 2014 was what seemed to be a year of unending bicentennial celebration for Zion, 2015 is turning out to be a year of ongoing transition, at least for rental partnerships that have been with us for decades.

Our inspection of the parsonage indicated that we will need to provide a generous coat of paint throughout the whole living area of the parsonage. Carpeting will become a priority once the painting is finished. Then, we will be in a position to chart a course for the next chapter when it comes to use of the parsonage. We have made substantive and serious progress in searching possible restrictions on the title to our 9 ½ acre site here at the corner of Portage Street and Lindy Lane. It takes time to collect all the relevant information; but we'll have plenty of time to share it with all as we approach our Spring Congregational Meeting in June.

In the meantime, it won't be long before our Spring Cleaning and Outdoor Work Day is scheduled. After the winter we've endured, it will be great to see the grass, plant some flowers, and watch as the grounds at Zion come back to life as warm weather returns.

## *MORE COUNCIL NEWS*

Before Lent began, there were questions about whether we wanted to repeat the tradition of Sunday evening dinners and devotions. Several meetings were held, and the consensus emerged that the Sunday evening format promised our best hopes for success, but only if we found the secret to mutual support. We changed the dinner format to focus on soups and sandwiches, inviting more members to contribute a crock pot of their favorite soup, chili, or chowder. This change really worked well.

In terms of our search for mutual support, where each hosting group tried harder to support the other hosting groups with their presence, Council took the lead. Quite often, almost all members of a particular group will attend the Sunday evening that their group hosts dinner, but fewer than half continue to show up for the other Sundays. Attendance can lag as the long Lenten season moves through horrible weather, filled with winter colds and coughs.

This year Council took the lead in making sure that they were present not only for the dinner they hosted, which was the First Sunday in Lent, but for the other Sundays, too. Their example made a huge difference. As it turned out, due to scheduling, more Council members actually attended the four dinners they didn't host; and they brought their family and their friends. Horrible weather took a toll; but attendance for our special Sunday evening Lenten programs did very, very well, turning out to be the strongest service of the day! The food was exceptional; the fellowship, delightful; and our worship, uplifting and enjoyable. It didn't happen without hard work; but the result was truly a gift. Thanks be to God!

## *OUR LENTEN FOOD REVIEW*

First, it was the Church Council. Their leadership was LARGE! They helped to generate great attendance each and every Sunday. Plus, they set the stage for some great food. Dave Palumbo took the lead with his Italian-plus sandwiches back in February, but Zion's Chancel Guild did not miss a beat with delicious chicken sandwiches to go with beef stew, broccoli soup, homemade chili, vegetable soup, and chicken noodle & meatball soup.

On the Third Sunday Evening in Lent, the Senior Choir took the lead by following Ed Hauck to the honey-baked ham deli for a great array of sandwiches, and again, crock pots filled with a fabulous selection of soups: cauliflower, chicken noodle, chicken vegetable, cheesy potato, and some mac 'n cheese, too. Barb Elsass spent the weekend baking, and we had more than enough sweet treats for all. After that, it was the Youth of Zion, with help from their families and our youth leaders. Great pulled pork sandwiches accompanied pizza soup, vegetable beef, broccoli cheese, wedding soup, shrimp soup, and New England clam chowder!

Let's face it, the change in menu format was a huge success. Lots of folks contributed crock pot delights; and the rest of us got to enjoy a great selection of all sorts of stuff each and every Sunday. For the first four Sunday evenings of this Lenten season, attendance approached 70, which is great for our tradition of special Lenten services. We could not have been happier with the measured success we enjoyed, especially after wondering whether we should stick with the Sunday evening dinner and devotions format. But none of this could have prepared us for what would come next....

# Sounds of the Caribbean III

THE RITTMAN HIGH

SCHOOL STEEL DRUM BAND IS A HUGE SUCCESS

**GREAT ATTENDANCE! GREAT FOOD! GREAT MUSIC!**

**DEAN YODER CREATES ANOTHER HUGE HIT!**

**THE FREE CONCERT DELIGHTS A HUGE CROWD,**

**AND THEN THE ICE CREAM SUNDAE TIKI HUT**

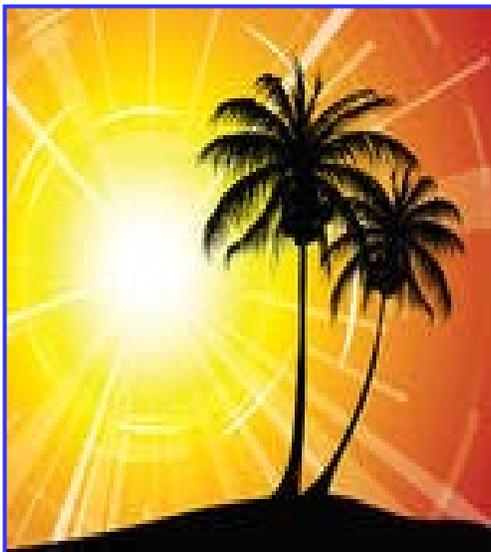
**TOOK CARE OF EVERYTHING & EVERYONE ELSE!**

**WE HAD IT ALL ... AND ENJOYED EVERY BIT OF IT!**



It truly was the hottest celebration of the year, Mahn!

It was clearly a nice break from this year's rugged winter weather. The sun was shining; and, while there was still a chill in the air, our Sanctuary was filled with the warm and rhythmic sounds of the Rittman High School Steel Drum Band under the direction of Mr. Ed Sims. When the concert portion of the afternoon ended, we enjoyed some great food and delicious ice cream in Memorial Hall. Thin-crust flat-bread pizza treats complemented our gourmet array of chowders, soups, and chilis. Let there be no doubters. It could not have been a more timely *mardi gras*-like intrusion into a very difficult Lenten season! None were disappointed. All were overjoyed at the final Sunday evening Lenten event of the season. Our thanks to all, especially to the Men of Zion, and, in particular, to Dean Yoder. Rittman High School is Dean's *alma*



*mater*; and inviting Ed Sims and the Steel Drum Band is Dean's way of thanking the good people of his home town for helping to give generations of Ohio youth a firm foundation and a good start toward a promising future. Here at Zion, this Caribbean break provided a good opportunity to thank the good people of Zion for helping us through an expensive winter season with some timely Early Bird Giving. Your generosity helped us to weather the arctic cold of polar vortices, along with the added costs that came with higher utility, snow-plowing, and salting bills. It won't be long before summer arrives in full force, with the costs of lawn care and air-conditioning redirecting the focus of our concerns; but until then,

the warm Caribbean breezes of our free concert in March encourage us to simply say, “Don’t worry. Be Happy!”

## GREAT NEWS FROM ZION'S SUNDAY SCHOOL



### Happy Birthday to:

### UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>:** It's our Annual Easter Egg Hunt between the services on Easter Sunday  
**Sunday, April 12:** It's time to return to our regular schedule for all Sunday School Classes  
**Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>:** FEED THE NEED: The Stark County Hunger Walk, beginning at 3:00 p.m.  
**Sunday, May 10:** 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Mother's Day Breakfast in Memorial Hall between Services  
**Sunday, May 24:** The Festival of Pentecost, the Birthday of the Church as the Body of Christ  
**Sunday, May 31:** The Festival of the Holy Trinity means a Sunday School Party for Everyone  
 The Week of July 13—17: Vacation Bible School at Zion Lutheran Church, 9:00 a.m. to Noon

### SUNDAY SCHOOL: PRE-K THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL:

April begins with our annual Easter Egg Hunt for the kids on Easter Sunday during the Sunday School hour. We will begin the Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30 a.m. After-wards we'll enjoy milk, juice, and donuts to celebrate the day. We will return to our normal schedule the rest of the month, with Sunday School classes meeting from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. for all of the kids.

### THE EASTER PLAY: A WORD ON THE RESURRECTION

This year's Easter program was based on the accounts we read about the Resurrection in the Gospel of John. We followed Mary Magdalene and the disciples as they went to the Empty Tomb, and then saw the Risen Lord. Our narrators recited the scripture passages from John 20 to share their story.



The program began with somber words of despair and doubt: "There is no hope. There is no future. We saw him die. There is no doubt." But once the proof Thomas devised proves the truth, then "there is hope" and "there is a future" because of the Good News that Jesus is alive! He died to save us. We are forgiven! We have the promise of eternal life with God in heaven. The children did a great job as readers, narrators, and characters in the drama of our salvation. Everyone enjoyed the program and the message!

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who helped with our Easter program! Thanks to the Sunday School leaders – Janet Slease, Connie Riffle, Renee Keith and Corlene Coulter – for all their help during Sunday School, during rehearsal on Saturday, and during the day of the program. Thank you to Suzanne Walters for her help with the music, and to Brian Walters for his help with the sound system. Finally, thank you to Chrissy Nicholson, and to Emma & Jacob Parkomaki for making our tomb for the play. Everyone's help was needed and appreciated.

MORE GREAT NEWS FOR ZION'S YOUTH

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU TO ALL!**

There are many, many thank you's to share this month! First, thank you to the youth for all of their help during Lent this year. We appreciate everyone who took part in the Passion Narrative during our devotions for the First Sunday Evening in Lent. We also appreciate everyone's help during the Lenten Dinner on the Fourth Sunday Evening in Lent. We have a great group of kids, a great group of families, great youth leaders, and great support from the congregation!

This gets us to our second set of thank you's – to everyone who made soups and desserts for the Lenten Dinner we hosted on March 15<sup>th</sup>. It was a great evening with delicious food and desserts. Thank you to everyone who donated items to make the dinner a success and for all of the help with set up, serving and clean up!

This gets us to Easter. Thank you to everyone who donated candy to help us fill the Easter Eggs for this year's annual Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt. It was a great Easter morning for all the children who joined us. We appreciate your support and generosity. A big THANK YOU goes out to Eric Dague and Nathan Fox for filling ALL OF OUR EASTER EGGS for this year's BIG EASTER EGG HUNT! Eric and Nathan filled over FIVE HUNDRED eggs with all of the donated candy.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: JULY 13 – 17**

We are making progress in finalizing details for Vacation Bible School this year. We are still working on the theme, and we hope to make that decision by the end of April so that we can start moving forward with music, decorations, crafts, and lessons. We enjoyed the change in times last year; and this year Vacation Bible School will again be from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and then 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Friday.

Another part of the program that will be the same as last year is that we will need many, many volunteers – from volunteers to help with preparations during the week to volunteers to help in classrooms, with the crafts, outdoors, with music, and everything else, too! If you are interested in helping out, please let Debbie Fox know at 330-966-2433 or [dfox521@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dfox521@sbcglobal.net).

**THE 2015 STARK COUNTY HUNGER WALK**

**FEED THE NEED**  
**Stark County Hunger Walk**  
**May 3rd, 2015**

The need is critical. Hunger affects 1 in 7 people in our communities. 1 out of 4 area children lack regular access to food. We can make a difference. This fund-raising walk benefits all the food distribution sites in the Stark County area who rely on the Akron-Canton Regional Food Bank for the groceries they give out to persons in

need. Every penny raised by this walk goes to the Akron-Canton Regional Food Bank. The date is Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, with registrations at 2:00 p.m., and the walk to begin at 3:00 p.m. We start at Community Christian Church. It's a kids-friendly and pet-friendly walk. Plus, there are lots of pre-walk activities: music by the Storyville Stompers Dixieland Band, face-painting, veggie cups & chips, a group picture before the walk, complete with a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by Mayor David Held of North Canton to begin the walk. Mark your calendars and plan to help!

## OUR YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

### QUESTION OF THE MONTH FOR APRIL

What are you looking forward to most now that Spring has sprung?

*To do my best in school, and to be more helpful*

*I get to see my friend!*

*Playing with friends*

*My birthday will soon be here!*

*Getting the boat ready for an active spring and fun summer*

*Fishing, camping, and riding an All-Terrain-Vehicle!*

*Warmer weather and NO MORE SNOW!*

*Warm weather and Kalahari during Spring break!*

*Warm weather, finally, and Easter is here!*

*Warm weather and NO MORE SNOW!*

*Spending time with family and friends*

*Warm weather, warm weather, warm weather!*

*Enjoying the flowers as they begin to bloom!*

*The weather is now going to be a lot nicer!*

*Turkey season!*

*Warm weather.*



## **STARK COUNTY "FEED THE NEED" HUNGER WALK**

**Hunger Walk Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015, 3:00 p.m.**

**Registration at 2:00 p.m., Community Christian Church**

**Pre-Walk Activities will include music, face-painting, story-telling, snacks, sandwiches, soups, and lots, lots more!**

*Let's Stomp Out Hunger . . . One Step at a Time . . . May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015, 3:00 p.m.*

## THE WOMEN OF ZION

*Inspired by the Risen Lord* will be the focus of Session 8 of *Transforming Life and Faith*. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:3-8 will set the tone; but John 20:19-31 and Luke 24:13-35 follow up with powerful testimony that Christ is risen. *He is risen, indeed. Alleluia!* Paul writes, "I have handed on to you what was handed on to me, that Christ died for our sins, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and appeared to Peter, the Twelve, more than five hundred others, to James, to all the apostles, and, last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me." This good news of resurrection means that Jesus is Lord, death has been vanquished, and eternal life is ours, as a gift, God's gift of pure grace. The miracle of Christ's life continues on with the birth of the church, which is why Luke continues his Gospel with the Book of Acts. The opening in the *Acts of the Apostles* is the hinge between this entire Bible study series and the final session, which will be our focus in May. This month we celebrate new life proclaimed with the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Next month we will look more closely at the nature and mission of the church. April and May are "can't miss" months. Be sure to join us on April 21<sup>st</sup>, and again on May 19<sup>th</sup>. We meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Resource Center. All women are invited. All of us enjoy this time of conversation and fellowship; and we know that you will enjoy it, too.

**Zion's Comfort Givers** meet on the second and fourth Thursdays. In April – weather willing and as health allows – we will meet on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. The old saying applies, "Many hands make light work." Consider joining us as we enjoy coffee, conversation, and the feeling of knowing that we're helping others in need through the good we do. We meet in Luther Hall, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

## WOMEN'S SPRING CLUSTER

**Canton-Massillon Cluster Spring Gathering** is set for Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, at the corner of 55<sup>th</sup> St. NE and Middlebranch, on **Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>**. Registration begins with coffee at 9:00 a.m. The theme, *Bloom Where You Are Planted*, is based on Jeremiah 29:5. Pastor Rhonda Gallagher will lead the Bible study. *In-kind gifts* of canned goods, pasta & sauce, paper products, and non-perishable items for the Food Pantry at Holy Trinity, baby quilts for area agencies, and lap robes for St. Luke residents are invited. The *Love Offering* will be divided equally between the Food Pantry at Holy Trinity and NEOSWO, otherwise known as the **North-Eastern Ohio Synod Women's Organization**. The registration cost of \$8.<sup>00</sup> includes lunch. Contact Betty Tracy with your interest.

**16<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention, the Northeastern Ohio Synod, ELCA:** Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, at Grace Lutheran Church in Wadsworth. The purpose of this gathering is to conduct the business of our organization, **NEOSWO**. We are always looking for ways of encouraging younger women to participate. We do so many good things in seeking to contribute to the life of the church and the cause of God's kingdom that, when added to the enjoyable fellowship we share, there is much to pass to women who have not yet discovered how the **Northeastern Ohio Synod Women's Organization** can help all of us make the difference God calls us to make. Contact Betty Tracy with your interest in joining us.

**We offer our thanks to the Women of Zion, and to Zion's Chancel Guild** as we think of the many ways in which their devotion and service contributed to the beauty and comfort of our worship at Zion during Holy Week and the Lenten season. We've been richly blessed.

**SOME THRIVENT NEWS**

**Dave Zastawny**, our Thrivent Representative, will travel to Nicaragua this April as part of a team selected to help build homes side-by-side with families in need as a sign of the partnership that connects Thrivent Financial with Habitat for Humanity all over the world. Dave was selected because of his service to families in Stark County, his performance as an associate, and his passion for volunteering. Steven Mechling, managing partner of the Ohio region of Thrivent Financial, said that “Dave has proven his dedication to service. Whether he is helping a family in Navarre plan for their future or helping to build a home with a family in another country, he is passionate about serving.” We congratulate Dave and will keep him in our prayers.

**Stark County Chapter, Thrivent Financial:** On behalf of the local branch of the Stark County Chapter of Thrivent Financial, please accept our gift of \$250 to cover the expenses of purchasing material for your quilters, otherwise known as Zion’s Comfort Givers. The fellowship shared in sewing is perhaps the only thanks received in quilt making; and that is what makes this ministry extra special. This is truly giving without the possibility of receiving something in return, save the satisfaction of knowing that someone is going to be provided comfort and warmth, which we so often take for granted. Jesus was never paid for the healing that he did. He expected nothing in return. I think he was about healing, feeding, and caring for the poor alongside his teaching. Obviously, we will never be like Jesus; but I can’t help but think he would applaud our many quilters throughout the church. Thanks so much for all that your quilters do.

*Denny Stafford, Financial Director  
Stark County Chapter, Thrivent Financial*

**AND THANK YOU’S, TOO!**

*The Bereavement Luncheon Committee,*

We would like to thank all of you for the wonderful food and for all your time and work put into set up, serving and clean up. Our family and friends greatly appreciated the food and fellowship you allowed us to have together. We would also like to thank all of you for your prayers and support. God’s Peace be with you all.

*Our thanks to all of you,  
The Le Beau family*

*To Pastor and our church family,*

We would like to thank Pastor Sherwindt for his prayers and visits with communion when Dad was at Rose Lane. Dad always looked forward to these visits. We would also like to thank our church family at Zion for all your prayers, cards, and visits. Dad’s strong faith in God and his love for his church family were very important to him. During times like these we realize how much friends and family really mean to us. Your expression of love and sympathy will always be remembered. God’s Blessings and Peace be with you all.

*The Ellis Le Beau family*

*Dear friends at Zion Lutheran Church,*

Thank you for the warm welcome extended to Emily and me at the Steel Drum Band Concert (on March 22). It was great to be back after all these years. Thank you, too, for the gifts – the commemorative plate, the bicentennial ornament, a devotional booklet, and the DVD. It’s been almost twenty-five years since my service alongside Pastors Lutz and Findlay. It was nice to be remembered, and welcomed back with such love.

*Thanks again, and God bless,  
Pastor Rich Ferris & Emily*

## **GOOD NEWS TO REMEMBER**

The *North Canton Lions Club* sponsors an annual Shopping Spree Fundraiser; Howard Dansizen bought a ticket for Zion's Food Pantry, and won the shopping spree for Zion! We will have the opportunity to race through the aisles at Acme Fresh Market on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m., for a total of 90 seconds! Cathy Harvey has the privilege of choosing who will do our shopping for us ... thanks to Howard Dansizen's winning ticket. We are thankful for Howard's generosity; and we are also thankful for the dedication that so many offer so freely in making sure that our Food Pantry is well-staffed with hardworking and faithful volunteers. On the first and third Tuesdays of every month, we open our doors for service to families from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Our volunteers begin setting up around 9:30 a.m. Feel free to join us on any of these Tuesdays. We need all the help we can get!

## **MEN OF ZION NEWS**

*We've already mentioned* the great food we served as a part of our Sunday Evening Lenten Dinner on March 22<sup>nd</sup>; but the Men of Zion were also found in our kitchen, or theirs, preparing soups, chilis, and chowders on the other Sunday evenings, too! New England clam chowder, Randy's hot, hot chili, shrimp soup, beef stew, wedding soup, broccoli cheese, chicken noodle: we had lots of help from lots of people, but the Men of Zion were present in force (and in person) throughout the season helping to make our Sunday evenings in Lent the success they were.

Speaking of delicious food, it's time to start planning what will soon be the Men of Zion's *13<sup>th</sup> Annual Mother's Day Breakfast*, which is on the calendar for *Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>*. This is a big event and a great tradition that takes a whole lot of planning, with teams to manage the drinks, the fresh fruit salad, breads of all sorts, the best juices, and a world-class main course baked and burnt by the Men of Zion. We've got our work cut out for us, and this might require an actual meeting, and then some follow up and follow through. So let's pull together and make it happen: May 10<sup>th</sup>, between the Services in Memorial Hall.

*While our financial facts* for the month of March continue to settle, we know enough to share some good news in announcing that we were able to leave two consecutive monthly deficits behind, retiring a year-to-date deficit of \$1,440.43, and entering April with a year-to-date surplus! We could talk about the great success of Early Bird Giving, Sunday evening Lenten services, or a five-Sunday month; but the bottom line of budgets in balance is that your generosity continues to astound; and we are very thankful for your generous support.