

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

**OUR 13TH ANNUAL
MOTHER'S DAY
BREAKFAST:**

**SUNDAY, MAY 10TH
BETWEEN THE SERVICES
9:10 A.M. - 10:10 A.M.**

Oven-Warmed Cinnamon Rolls

Breads of All Sorts

The Best of Juices

The Freshest Fruit

The Finest Coffees

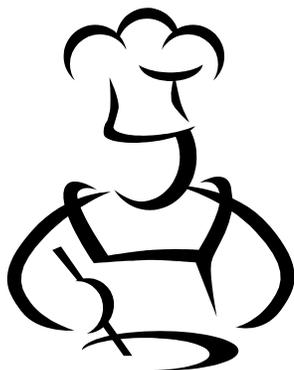
A Brand New Main Course

Special Mother's Day Program:

10:10 a.m. in the Sanctuary

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Special Music and Much More!



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 edition of our Mother's Day Breakfast. Once again, we will have five teams working to plan our 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; and let's not forget about the signature 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 let everyone know that "mulching" day will be the Saturday after Memorial Day weekend, which is May 30th. It is customary that on the Festival of Pentecost, which is the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend, there are geraniums everywhere in the Sanctuary. Many take their geraniums home, or to the cemetery, while others leave them for the church to plant in our landscaping beds. So, the Saturday after Memorial Day is a great time to plant geraniums and spread mulch. Join us. We need all the help we can get!

FINANCIAL GOOD NEWS

March was a monster month for Zion, financially speaking, with five Sundays and special services on Sunday evenings. We received income that more than matched monthly expenses, retiring our year-to-date deficit, and leaving a little extra for April! We had accumulated a budget deficit of \$1,440 through February. We entered April with a year-to-date surplus of almost \$250. And we still have Early Bird Giving funds in reserve, and Advanced Giving, which is usually recognized gradually throughout the year. In other words, we entered the second quarter in very good shape.

To add still more good news to this very nice report, April held its own, which sets us on a course to carry these positive balances into May and June! Early Bird Giving has made a nice difference for Zion, allowing us to leave the costs of winter behind as we celebrate the arrival of Spring with Easter and Pentecost. May is another five-Sunday month, with Sundays that include Mother’s Day, Pentecost, and Memorial Day: all of these are celebrations that offer significant opportunities to thank God for blessings that enrich our lives.

| ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS FOR MARCH | |
|---|------------------|
| March Income | 22,107.05 |
| March Expenses | <u>20,424.49</u> |
| March Surplus | 1,682.56 |
| Income through March | 65,937.73 |
| Expenses through March | <u>65,695.60</u> |
| 2015 YTD Surplus | 242.13 |
| Our Food Pantry Fund | \$7,046.50 |
| Zion’s Youth Fund | \$7,441.97 |
| 2015 Advanced Giving | \$7,500.00 |
| <i>We thank you for your generous support!</i> | |

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

April’s meeting began at 7:03 p.m., with devotions led by Mark Votaw, who offered some very touching remarks on the death and dying of his father’s wife and partner of forty-four years, Rhoda Votaw. Also present were Dave Palumbo, Carol Rossbach, Todd Elsass, Jayne Schrader, Dale Jacobs, Jim Fidler, Randy Cizek, and Pastor Sherwindt. Heather Hoffman and Renee Keith were excused. We covered a lot of ground in looking back on a productive March, celebrating the arrival of Easter, and looking ahead to our Congregational Meeting in June. When we adjourned, it was 7:53 p.m.

Pastor Sherwindt reminded us that the Northeastern Ohio Synod Assembly is set for the Friday and Saturday of May 15-16. Carol Rossbach and Chuck Danner have agreed to join Pastor as our delegates. Three young members will celebrate the Rite of Confirmation this year, Summer Heller, Kathryn Milek, and Mallory Rhodes. We have scheduled this celebration for the Sunday of June 7th. Our youth and young families did a great job with this year’s Easter play. We have been recruiting their support for participating in this year’s FEED THE NEED Hunger Walk on May 3rd. This year’s Vacation Bible School has a date, the week of July 13-17.

One of the more interesting topics of discussion at April’s Council Meeting was the parsonage. Jim Fidler, a retired attorney who is very familiar with issues related to real estate, was able to examine the title search that was conducted by the law firm of Fitzpatrick & DePasquale, which we pursued at Dave Palumbo’s initiative. Jim has some very clear statements to make about our property, which are included on the next page of this newsletter.

ARE THERE DEED RESTRICTIONS ON OUR PROPERTY?

Lauren E. Fitzpatrick and David F. DePasquale, Attorneys at Law, conducted a title search regarding the real estate owned by our church at 309 and 349 Lindy Lane Avenue NW. They write, “A review of the title search shows there are no recorded deed restrictions prohibiting the sale of the real estate owned by the church.” Further, they write that the Stark County Auditor’s Office has advised that “our two separate parcel numbers reflect a split in the exemption class only, that is to say, the parsonage parcel is taxable, while the church parcel is not.” Both parcels are free of any deed restrictions that could prohibit or hinder the church’s desire to sell any portion of the land we own.

Here’s how Jim Fidler summarized his reading of the official report given to us by the law firm of Fitzpatrick & DePasquale: “An exhausting title search by a prominent real estate law firm has determined there are no restrictions or covenants of any kind impacting upon Zion Lutheran’s ability to utilize or dispose of the 9 ½ acres of real estate the church currently occupies here on the corner of Portage Street and Lindy Lane.” Jim goes on to conclude that “the congregation is in a position to make an informed decision as to the future of the vacant parsonage, confident in the knowledge that there are no restrictions whatsoever on Zion Lutheran’s continued use or sale of the property.”

There is nothing private about this title search. We have distributed copies to Council member and Zion’s Trustees. It is available in the Church Office for members who would like to take a closer look at it. Jim tried his best to help Council members understand the particulars of the legal document in front of us. This is how he summarized matters: “Three sets of documents available for review in the Church Office demonstrate beyond all doubt Zion Lutheran’s unrestricted ability to determine the next chapter for the parsonage:

- (1) Documents compiled pursuant to the title search showing there are no deed restrictions or covenants on use or sale of the property;
- (2) The By-Laws of Zion Lutheran Church, which, neither at the time of conveyance of the property to Zion Lutheran nor today, contain any restrictions on the ability to acquire or sell real estate;
- (3) The Certification issued by the Ohio Secretary of State that Zion Lutheran Church continues to be a corporate entity in good standing in the State of Ohio.”

These are complicated matters, and Council is proceeding in a very deliberate fashion to make sure that we understand the objective facts and the issues at hand. We plan to schedule a series of discussions between the services in Luther Hall to make sure that those who are interested can participate in the conversation. We are not creating a movement to sell the parsonage. We are simply trying to make sure that our understanding of these matters is based on objective facts and not merely recollections or rumors. Please plan to join us on the Sunday morning of May 31, when we talk more in the Adult Sunday School Class about the different options available to us as we think about various issues related to the parsonage.

FEED THE NEED HUNGER WALK IS HUGE SUCCESS!

Hunger affects one person in seven persons in our community. One child in four does not have enough to eat. The needs are shockingly great. Zion's Youth offered to do our part by participating in this year's edition of the Stark County FEED THE NEED Hunger Walk. Fifty feet and four paws hit the pavement on May 3rd to raise funds for the Akron Canton Regional Foodbank. That was twenty-five of our youth and adults, and one dog. It was a kids-friendly and pet-friendly walk; and Scout agreed! We had a great group of youth and adults, with Debbie, Dean, Nathan, and Jeremy Fox, John, Mallory, and Marcus Rhodes, who brought a friend, Tristan Imhoff, Kay Reiss, Laura and Christopher Thompson, Christopher's friend, Brandon Snyder, and, of course, their dog Scout, Cathy Harvey and her friend, Beth Danford, Lester Brown and Laura Smucker, Melissa Riffle, Matt Leasure, Connie Riffle, Janet Slease, Nikki Swiger, Todd Elsass, George Martin, Dean Yoder, and Pastor Sherwindt.

We were joined by hundreds of walkers from area churches, synagogues, and mosques as we met at Community Christian Church for lots of Pre-Walk activities that began at 2:00 p.m. There were snacks and drinks outside, the Storyville Stompers Dixieland Band inside, with face-painting, a ribbon-cutting ceremony, special speakers, a blessing of sneakers, and a whole lot of walkers. The Hunger Walk began right around 3:00 p.m., following a group photo on the front steps of Community Christian Church, opening remarks by walk organizer, Pastor Darla Ann Kratzer (from Canton City Lutheran Parish), an opening prayer offered by the Rev. Sarah Taylor Peck (from Community Christian Church), greetings from State Senator Scott Oelsleger, and the cutting of the ribbon by North Canton Mayor David Held.

A big part of the point of this Hunger Walk was to raise community awareness about the problems posed by hunger. An even bigger part of the point was to raise funds to help in our efforts to combat hunger. Zion's Youth Fund got the ball rolling by pledging \$500 in support. Pastor then challenged the congregation to double down and add \$1,000 to this beginning for a total of \$1,500.00! That seemed like a lot; but we overshot by a whole lot more! The donations kept rolling in, and didn't stop until we had collected a total of two thousand, seven hundred, and ninety-two dollars. That's right, Zion wound up donating a total of \$2,792.00! Wow! Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who heard the call and said YES to the challenge to join our friends at Community Christian Church in making a strong statement of support for our hosts of this the 2nd Annual Stark County Hunger Walk!

Every penny of all the money donated for this year's edition of the FEED THE NEED Stark County Hunger Walk goes to the Akron Canton Regional Foodbank. Our food pantry uses this foodbank. We drive up to Akron on the first and third Tuesdays of every month, and are blessed to receive incredible amounts of food at very, very low prices, around 7 cents a pound. When spring arrives, fresh produce abounds, deep into the fall. Throughout the course of the year, we are able to distribute corn, melons, potatoes, tomatoes, zucchini, all sorts of squash, all sorts of fruit, vegetables galore, all free, compliments of area farmers. Our access to the Akron Canton Regional Foodbank is granted through our affiliation with the Stark County Hunger Task Force. What a great partnership this has been for us, and for all the families we serve, along with the tens of thousands who are served through food pantries all over northeast Ohio.



GREAT NEWS FROM ZION'S SUNDAY SCHOOL



Happy Birthday to:

Mallory Rhodes – Friday, May 8th

Kevin Walters – Friday, May 22nd

UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Sunday, May 3rd: The FEED THE NEED Hunger Stark County Hunger Walk begins, 3 p.m.

Mother's Day, May 10: Zion's Mother's Day Breakfast during the Sunday School Hour

Mother's Day, May 10: Our Special Mother's Day Program from 10:10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, May 24th: Pentecost: The Birth of the Church as the Body of Christ: Wear Red!

Sunday, May 31st: The Last Sunday of the 2014-15 Sunday School Year: Let's have fun!

Sunday, June 7th: The Rite of Confirmation: Summer Heller, Kat Milek, Mallory Rhodes

July 13, 14, 15, 16, 17: Our Celebration of Vacation Bible School, 9:00 a.m. 'til 12:30 p.m.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN THRU THE SIXTH GRADE

During the month of May our Sunday School kids will finish up their classroom studies for this year. There will be no Sunday School on Mother's Day, May 10th, 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, May 31st, will be our last day of class for the 2014-15 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, and classes will begin again the next Sunday.

A very big thank you goes out to our Sunday School teachers and staff. As always, another amazing job this year! We truly appreciate your time and dedication to the children of Zion. This year's staff includes some great teachers and helpers: Corlene Coulter, Vicki Givler, Miriam Keating, Chrissy Parkomaki, Connie Riffle, and Janet Slease.

CONFIRMATION CLASS AND THE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS

We will also be taking a break from Catechism and the High School class over the summer. The last class for Confirmation and High School students will be Sunday, May 31st. Many thanks once again to Renee Keith for teaching the Catechism class this year. As always, she did a great job and received very high praise from the kids!

Also, a big thank you to Laura Thompson for leading the High School Class this year. Her support and dedication to the kids is greatly appreciated as she leads them in their spiritual growth at Zion. We also want to offer an honorable mention to Mark Votaw, who, on occasion, would substitute for Laura.

Everyone – in all classrooms, for every age group – did an exceptional job; we are thankful to all for your support in helping us to be faithful in our commitment to provide opportunities for our younger members to learn about God's love as we grow in love and service by grace.

SOME DATES TO REMEMBER

Dates for Vacation Bible School: Join us July 13 through July 17, when we have scheduled Zion's Vacation Bible School this year. The format will be very similar to last year. Vacation Bible School will run from its 9:00 a.m. starting time until 12:30 p.m. on Monday through Thursday; and then on Friday, we will go from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. – because of Water Day! Next month's newsletter will have all the details; but our plans are coming together, and it looks really, really good! We will have registration forms and informational letters in the Church Office by Monday, June 1st, and sign up sheets in Luther Hall for all the "stuff" we hope many will want to contribute. We will need volunteers for Vacation Bible School – from preparations ahead of time to help during the week. If you are interested in helping, let Debbie Fox know by calling her 330-966-2433, or emailing her at dfox521@sbcglobal.net.

A Date for the Craft Show: The *Youth Missions Craft Show & Oktoberfest* is on the calendar for *Saturday, October 17th*, 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 *Twelfth Annual Youth Missions Craft Show & Oktoberfest*. That's *Saturday, October 17th*.

The Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, which is sponsored by the U.S. Postal Service, will be *Saturday, May 9th*. Zion's Food Pantry will head over to the Jackson Post Office between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. to pick up our share of the food that is collected. Contact Cathy Harvey if you are willing to help.

MEMBERS TO REMEMBER

Danielle Frock-Welnak, a stellar member of Zion's Confirmation Class of 1999, was a 2003 graduate of North Canton Hoover High School. From there it was off to the University of South Carolina in Columbia, where she earned her Bachelors degree in 2007. She majored in Biology, with a minor in Women's Health. She went on to receive a Masters in Public Health from The Ohio State University, and followed that with a Master of Science degree in Biomedical Science from Tufts University. While pursuing these degrees, she took time to marry Captain Thomas Welnak in 2011. Her journey has had purpose and direction; and she will graduate on May 17th from Tufts University Medical School in Boston. She and Tom are already looking for housing in Richmond, Virginia, where she will soon begin her Residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Virginia Commonwealth Medical Center. Well done, and God's richest blessings on all that is yet to come.

THE WOMEN OF ZION

Our year-long journey with Carol Schersten LaHurd entitled *Transforming Life and Faith* comes to a close with Session 9, *The Church: Transforming and Reforming*. The Good News of our Lord's Resurrection at Easter leads to the birth of the Body of Christ with Pentecost. Our monthly Bible study begins with Acts 1:11, the Ascension of our Lord. This is followed in chapter 2 with the Mighty Wind that breathes new life into the body of believers blessed to become the community that would transform the world for good.

There are so many stops along the way that are worth enjoying. There's the first Church Council in Acts 15, where Peter and Paul got together to lay out a plan for unity moving forward. Then, there's Paul's vision of a community in 1 Corinthians 12, where each of us uses our many gifts for the good of all. Finally, how about that exhortation for the ages, where Paul challenges us, that we not be conformed to the ways of this world, but transformed by the renewal of our minds through the power of the Spirit. It's found in Romans 12:1-12. Unity with diversity in love: that's the secret, which we shouldn't hide under a basket; for it is a secret we need to make known by proclaiming it out loud to the ends of the earth!

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 19th, 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 14th & 28th 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.

TO MOM WITH LOVE

Before I was myself you made me, me; with love and patience, discipline and tears, then bit by bit stepped back to set me free,

Allowing me to sail upon my sea, though well within the headlands of your fears.

Before I was myself you made me, me.

With dreams enough of what I was to be; and hopes that would be sculpted by the years, then bit by bit stepped back to set me free,

Relinquishing your powers gradually to let me shape myself among my peers.

Before I was myself you made me, me,

And being good and wise, you gracefully, as dancers when the last sweet cadence nears, bit by bit stepped back to set me free.

For love inspires learning naturally:

The mind assents to what the heart reveres.

And so it was through love you made me, me by slowly stepping back to set me free.

"God could not be everywhere, and therefore he made mothers." (Rudyard Kipling)

"Life began by waking up and loving my mother's face." (George Eliot)

There are times only when a Mother's love can understand our tears, can soothe our disappointments, and calm all our fears.

There are times when only a Mother's love can share the joy we feel, when something we've dreamed about quite suddenly is real.

There are times when only a Mother's faith can help on life's way, and inspire in us the confidence we need from day to day.

For a Mother's heart and a Mother's faith and a Mother's steadfast love were fashioned by the angels, and sent from God above.

GREAT FOOD PANTRY NEWS

We don't know when exactly it happened, but it did happen. Howard Dansizen, whose support for the North Canton Lions Club had him selling raffle tickets for a Free Shopping Spree at Acme Fresh Market, bought one, which he donated to Zion's Food Pantry. That's the ticket that was drawn and became the winning ticket! Zion's Food Pantry, compliments of Howard Dansizen and the North Canton Lions Club, was invited to head up to the Acme Fresh Market on North Main in NC on Saturday, April 11th, and at 10:00 a.m. enjoy 90 seconds of shopping heaven! Cathy Harvey, our Food Pantry Director, enlisted the help of her nephew, Seth Roan, who grabbed a total of \$820.84 in groceries for the families we serve through our Food Pantry. What an incredible haul of free food! All the local newspapers covered it – *The Repository*, *Our Town*, the *North Canton Suburbanite* – with front page pictures and lots of quotes. What a great and generous gesture! Our thanks to Howard Dansizen, the North Canton Lions, Acme Fresh Market, Cathy Harvey, Seth Roan, Jim Dansizen, along with anybody and everybody else who had a hand to play is receiving these gifts for the families we serve through the ministry of our Food Pantry. Mostly, we want to thank God for the unusual and unexpected surprises that make ministry so interesting. Zion's Food Pantry and Clothing Closet are open for service the first and third Tuesdays of every month, which in May will be the 5th and 19th. All are welcome to come out and help. Our Lord lives through the love we share. We invite everyone to sense God's love in the service we offer through this very real form of compassion in action. You'll be glad you joined us; and so will we.

SOME NEO SYNOD NEWS

2015 Northeastern Ohio Synod Assembly is set for Friday and Saturday, May 15–16, at the John S. Knight Center in Akron. This year's theme is *We Are Church Together*. Our special guest reporting on the ELCA is none other than the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Elizabeth Eaton! What a treat it will be to welcome her home yet one more time! She has such an enjoyable sense of humor, which serves her and us well as she leads our ELCA through some challenging times.

Bishop Eaton's articles in *The Lutheran* are always down-to-earth and engaging. Her article in May was entitled *Worship is the Heart of All We Do*: "When we gather for worship we hear God's Word of promise; we confess our helplessness; we receive forgiveness; we pray; and we welcome new brothers and sisters through baptism, promising to support them in their walk in faith. We are fed with the bread of life and receive our Lord poured out for us. And then we are sent back into the world. Worship is essential for the church's life and service.... We should come to worship expecting to be changed. We are touching, tasting, feeling, hearing and seeing the one who knows us and loves us completely. Our lives are restored. We are set free. Fed for the journey we are set loose to go in peace and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God."

This year's Assembly begins on Friday at 9:00 a.m. After a day filled with reports and workshops, we will end our work with worship at 4:00 p.m. Saturday begins with prayer at 8:20 a.m. It allows for a period of Q & A with Bishops Elizabeth Eaton and Abraham Allende, includes installing newly elected Synod Council members, and then ends with praising God as we celebrate the good news that *We Are Church Together*.

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR ABOUT MAY:

What a month May will be! We begin with a Sunday that focuses on love: *“God is love; and those who love abide in God, and God abides in them.”* (1 John 4:16b) With a wedding at Zion set for Saturday, May 2nd, and love as the focus of our worship on Sunday, May 3rd, we could not have asked for a better connection between faith and life, and neither could Tom Votaw and Amanda Rajcsak, who tied the knot and became husband and wife in a beautiful service with the Sanctuary filled in a celebration of God’s gifts of love, friendship, and family.

Up next is the 13th Annual Mother’s Day Breakfast hosted by the Men of Zion on May 10th. This, too, is a celebration of love and gratitude ... along with great food, red roses, and a special Mother’s Day Program between the services. The focus on love continues in 1 John, while our Gospel turns explicitly to the new commandment Jesus shared with his followers, *“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”* (John 15:12) There is no doubt that when it comes to looking back on how we came to see what love looks like, we need only imagine the trust newborns learn from the eyes and face of their mothers listening with care and responding with love to every sound they make and each need they have.

From love, we move on to unity, which is the focus for worship on the third Sunday in May. On Friday and Saturday, Lutherans of the Northeastern Ohio Synod will gather in Assembly at the John S. Knight Center in Akron, as we journey forward with the conviction that we are the church together. Then, on Sunday it will be the words of Jesus in John praying *“that they may be one, even as [he and the Father] are one.”* (John 17:11) The earliest miracles for the church involved community, persons divided by historic hatreds, ethnic differences, with histories of political disagreement and family feuds, nevertheless being empowered by the blood of Christ to live and serve together in the unity that was theirs in the body of Christ. When Paul saw Jews and Gentiles worshipping as one in the Christian community, he dropped all doubts about what God was doing and became our Lord’s most powerful advocate.

We may have gotten ahead of ourselves just a bit. So, with the fourth Sunday in May we back up a bit to remember the Festival of Pentecost, when gifts of God’s grace overflowed from the heavens, landing as tongues of fire upon the disciples, inspiring them to proclaim God’s Word with such power that everyone who heard could see the love of Christ alive in their hearts and at work through their lives. This was the new creation promised with the arrival of God’s kingdom. The Book of Acts has been our guide in providing our First Lessons through the Easter season; and what Pentecost tells us is that we are an extension of the Book of Acts as the Spirit’s gifts continue to empower our witness to Christ’s love alive within us and at work among us.

This brings us to the fifth Sunday in May, when we take time to consider the mind-boggling mysteries contained in the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. Father, Son, and Spirit, three persons, one God, equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, coequal and coeternal, of one and the same being: all of this is very heady stuff. I love it! But the pastoral epistle of 1 John, which has also been our guide throughout this Easter season, is right to remind us that God’s love is down-to-earth, visibly real, actually lived, and not just pondered. The truth we proclaim with our Triune God demands a unity of faith and love, of word and deed. In fact, John said it best when he said it this way, *“Beloved, let us love not in word alone, but in deed and in truth.”* Amen!