

WORDS FROM THE PASTOR:

We celebrated my 14th Vacation Bible School with this year's edition of *G—Force: God's Love in Action*. But more importantly, and even more phenomenally, this latest edition was the 15th consecutive Vacation Bible School when Zion has been blessed to enjoy the leadership of the best VBS Director in the universe! I am talking, of course, about Debbie Fox. We have enjoyed the privilege of experiencing her love and dedication, her attention to detail, her support of staff, her faith in God, and her love for service for 15 consecutive years. We have witnessed the best: she's great with the kids, great for us, without doubt, the best in the universe! Debbie does an incredible job with Vacation Bible School; and in some respects, this was her best year ever, especially when it comes to recruiting volunteers and helpers from all over the country!

Her reputation has grown so far and wide that Julia, Annie, and Emma Reiss travelled all the way from New Orleans to join in the fun of VBS at Zion this year. We also have their aunt, Laura Thompson, and their grandmother, Kay Reiss, to thank for the Reiss girls joining us; but over the years, and this year, too, Debbie has recruited from among her family and neighbors, from the Sunday School staff and Comfort Givers, with helpers coming from Canton, North Canton, Uniontown, Louisville, Jackson, even Massillon, up north in the Akron area, and now, one thousand miles south and west to the Gulf coast! We enjoyed another great week of God's love in action, as our G—Force Adventure Park became a place where we could see God's love, God's grace, and God's power alive among us and at work through each and every one of us.

There were great crafts. The decorations around the church were – and are – sensational. The music and our music leaders were awesome. Our teachers, their helpers, the Comfort Givers, the kids, various work crews, group leaders, special guests, invited artists, videographers, photographers, volunteers in the kitchen, outside, organizing snacks, serving ice cream: all were seen working together beautifully because of a shared love of service and our common love for God. The years have passed so quickly; but the evidence of the past 15 years was undeniably clear in catching a glimpse of Debbie side-by-side with one son (now a VBS teacher) towering over her, and her other son cracking the codes of this computer age to create this year's video presentation on family night. I applaud Debbie for the good she's done over an incredibly rich span of growth in grace both for her family and for ours.

It is humbling to witness the good that God's people are willing to do in contributing to the cause of God's kingdom and the life of our church. Vacation Bible School invariably embodies this sort of commitment, offered so graciously by so many. Debbie Fox has been a big reason why the miracle of mutual support in Christian ministry continues to happen for us through VBS. This year we made sure that we took the time to thank Debbie for her many years of selfless service, and for the gift of true friendship, which invites us to want more than just things for our children. Her leadership in Christian Education, in general, and Vacation Bible School, in particular, has aimed high in helping our children have a clearer view of how much God loves us, a stronger sense of God's presence with us and His plan for us, along with a closer walk with a God who loves us and a people who care, as we share in this journey of learning to follow the One who leads to true life, where love is forever and life never ends.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2015LOTS OF FUN AND PLENTY OF ACTION
at G—FORCE ADVENTURE PARK

Once again an awesome group of kids joined us at Vacation Bible School, July 13 to 17. We had 25 children registered this year, averaging about 22 children each day. Our week-long adventure was all about action, and the kids explored how to put their faith into action. The children experienced a wide variety of activities during the week – great lessons, music, crafts, games, delicious snacks, many service projects and our Extreme G-Force Celebration on Friday.

This year's lessons were all about moving and taking action for God. Each day Pastor Sherwindt introduced the daily lesson and theme to start off our morning. Then our daily adventures followed.



On Monday our word was **MOVE**. The lesson was God's call to Moses. (Exodus 3:7-12) God called Moses and chose him to bring the Israelites out of Egypt. Through this story we experienced God as one who calls on people to help those in need, as well as seeing that God walks with us in the face of difficult tasks. He calls on us and walks with us just as he did with Moses. God moves among us and through us to do His work and spread His love.

Tuesday, our word was **ACT**. The lesson was Solomon building the Temple. (1 Chronicles 28:20-21; 2 Chronicles 5:1, 13) Solomon led God's people to build a great temple for God. Solomon followed his father's instructions, completing the temple according to God's plan. (His father was King David.) Serving God is more than just saying you believe. It means putting your faith into action. God chooses to act in the world through us. When God moves us to action, our actions will always be important because God is the one calling.



Our word on Wednesday was **CARE**. The lesson was *Four Friends Help*. (Mark 2:1-12) Four friends carried a paralyzed friend to see Jesus. Jesus' miraculous healing shines a light on the importance of caring for others. We discovered a group of individuals in this story who acted selflessly for the benefit of someone they cared about. Jesus' response to the dedication, action, and faith of the four friends teaches us the importance of working and caring for the good of others in faithful and loving service.

Our word for Thursday was **FOLLOW**. The lesson focused on the healing of Bartimaeus in Mark 10:46-52. Bartimaeus was a blind beggar who called out to Jesus for help. Jesus healed Bartimaeus and called attention to the fact that faith and sight go together. Bartimaeus then followed Jesus, teaching us that following Jesus is how we learn to see as God wants us to see. This is a story of faith leading to action through following Jesus. The children saw that Jesus cares about "all" of us – our minds and our bodies, as well as our souls.



MORE GOOD NEWS ABOUT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (CONT'D)

Friday, our word was **SHARE**. The lesson turned our attention to the women who found the Empty Tomb. (Luke 24:1-12) This story offered the children a look at the miraculous moment when a group of women who were Jesus' followers are the first to witness the empty tomb and Jesus' resurrection. They are also the first to share this good news with others. We, too, can share this good news with others. We can share stories of the Bible, and we can share the truth that God is always with us. By the power of God, Jesus was raised from the dead and is alive forever! Because of what Jesus did on the cross, we are forgiven of sin; and because He has been raised from the dead, we can live forever!



Thanks be to God for such wonderful lessons! The kids experienced God's unstoppable love and discovered how to fuel up and move through life with God all week long with everything that they did both at Vacation Bible School and at home!

We had an awesome group of teachers this year at G—Force Adventure Park: Carley Frank and Nathan Fox, (helpers: Max Schroeter and Jeremy Fox); Connie Riffle (helpers: Emma Shaheen and Kylie Elder); Janet Slease and Nicole Milek (helpers: Mallory Rhodes and Kat Milek); and Renee Keith. They put in a lot of time and hard work to make this year's program such a success. They even added something new to their lessons this year, science experiments, which all of the kids loved! I am so grateful to them for the amazing job that they did! The children learned so much and had a great time thanks to these teachers!

Music is always one of the favorite parts of VBS; and this year was no different, thanks to Julia and Annie Reiss, who came all the way from New Orleans this summer to lead the kids in singing and dancing. They did an amazing job with the kids, teaching them the songs, motions and dancing. They put together a wonderful program for the Ice Cream Social, which parents, family, and friends enjoyed. We saw a lot of group hugs and high fives all week during the music rotation. The children enjoyed the songs, which were fun and had great meaning. I am sure they will be singing and dancing to these songs for a long time! Thanks, Julia and Annie!

Our crafts were outstanding, thanks to the creativity, patience, and flexibility of Carol Rossbach and Cheryl Roman. This year's craft room included crafts and service projects – quilt squares, airplane magnets, prayer boxes, painted t-shirts, "I Care" planted pots, and Cheetah Chow. The finished products were great! Thank you to Carol and Cheryl, along with all of your helpers!

This year's outdoor games rotation was led by Matt Chufar. Thank you, Matt, for a job well done. The kids loved going outside to play the variety of games and activities that included relay races, variations of tag, temple building, and more. The games and activities encouraged teamwork and reinforced our daily themes in the decisions kids needed to make while outside.

Thank you, Kay and Emma Reiss, who headed up our snacks all week and lunch on Friday. We appreciate all they did to keep the kids full and hydrated while they were with us. We also had a traveling ice cream cart that all of the children were happy to see during their outdoor rotation!

MORE GOOD NEWS ABOUT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (CONT'D)

There are still more thank you's to extend and acknowledge. Thank you to Cassie Frank, Sydney Pepper and Matt Chufar for keeping the ice cream cart stocked, and serving these treats throughout the week. In truth, it wasn't just the kids who received the treats. We served ice cream to Zion hard-working quilters, and to every single adult who joined us all week long! It was a group effort, and we thank you all!

When it comes to special guests, this year we were very blessed to have a special guest from the North Canton YMCA. Jamie Dannemiller, the Health & Wellness Program Coordinator, joined us on Thursday and spent forty minutes with the entire group. She talked about the importance of moving and exercising to take care of the body with which God has blessed us. Jamie did stretching, designed an obstacle course, and played games with all of the kids. They had a great time and all asked if she could come every day next time! Thanks so much to Jamie for taking the time out of her schedule to teach us all so much and to get us moving!

The week finished out with our Family Night and the Ice Cream Social on Thursday evening, and then the G—Force Extreme Celebration on Friday. Thursday night's program was a great success. The kids did a great job singing and dancing; the highlight video was enjoyed by all; and the ice cream was a delicious end to the evening! Our thanks to Laura Thompson, Janet Slease and Connie & Melissa Riffle for taking care of the kitchen during the Ice Cream Social.

Friday's G—Force Extreme Celebration was a tricky day because of the weather. We lucked out and had a great time in the morning outside with water games, water balloons, the big water slide, and the slip-and-slide. Everyone was moving and getting soaked. It was a blast! Then we moved inside because of rain, and enjoyed a pizza party, carnival games in the gym, and, of course, our VBS Store, where the kids cashed in tickets they earned all week for fun prizes. It was a perfect ending to a great week of moving, acting, caring, following, and sharing for God!

Finally, a special thank you goes out to Carol Rossbach and our very generous friends at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church for this year's VBS decorations. The church looked great and the kids really enjoyed our G—Force Adventure Park. We are so grateful to our friends at Holy Trinity for graciously sharing their amazing decorations with us. Those decorations along with Carol's fabulous handiwork were a perfect match in creating a great atmosphere for our VBS this year.

Zion's VBS is such a great success because of the contributions and commitments of all involved – the staff, the children, their families, the many volunteers and the congregation. Thank you to everyone who donated supplies, food, money and/or their time!

What follows on the next page is a list of staff and volunteers who are invaluable to me and Zion! Many of these people did more than the category they're listed in. Everyone was willing to help out wherever they were needed! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

THANKS TO ALL!

WE THANK OUR STAFF AT "G—FORCE PARK"

Director: Debbie Fox

Teachers:

Carley Frank & Nathan Fox; Connie Riffle
Nicole Milek & Janet Slease; Renee Keith

Music: Julia & Annie Reiss

Crafts & Service: Carol Rossbach and Cheryl Roman

Outdoor Games: Matt Chufar

Snacks & Ice Cream Cart: Kay & Emma Reiss, Cassie Frank, Sydney Pepper

Our Youth Helpers: Jeremy Fox, Cassie Frank, Natalie Henderson,
Kat Milek, Sydney Pepper, Emma Reiss, Mallory Rhodes, Marcus Rhodes,
Max Schroeter, Emma Shaheen, and Kylie Elder

Other Volunteers: Chuck Danner, Dean Fox, Jeff Frank, Darlene Milavickas, Melissa Riffle,
Kay Reiss, Don Roan, Doug Roman, Pastor Sherwindt, and Brian Walters

Quilters: Kay Davis, Sue Geib, Joyce Gibeaut, Helen Heller, Linda Lancashire, Donna Roan,
Carol Snyder, Pat Stayer, Betty Tracy, and Linda Wilson

Special Guest Speaker: Jamie Dannemiller, North Canton YMCA Health & Wellness Coordinator

Registration: Vicki Givler

DVD & Photo CD: Jeremy Fox and Melissa Riffle

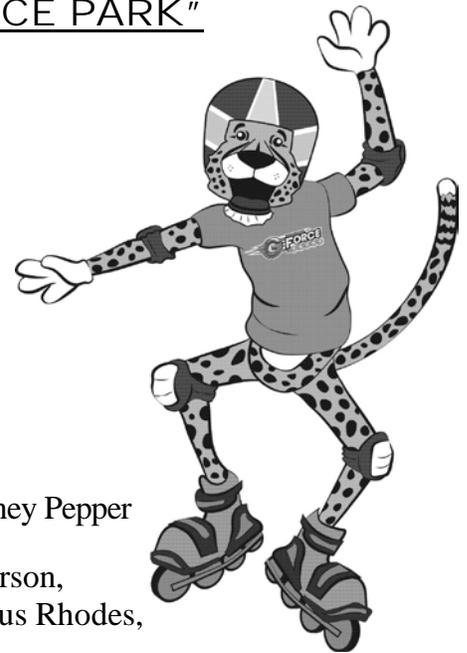
Daily Newsletter: Debbie Fox

Decorations: Carol Rossbach , plus our generous friends at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Ice Cream Social: Janet Slease, Laura Thompson , along with Connie and Melissa Riffle

This year was once again truly amazing! Because of the people listed above, our program was a great success. Zion is blessed with a great group of volunteers, who make our Vacation Bible School program one of the best! Everyone's flexibility, time commitment, and hard work are invaluable! I could not do it without everyone's help and support, and for that I am grateful from the bottom of my heart! I am also very grateful for the lovely flowers and generous gift cards I received as a THANK YOU on Thursday evening from everyone.

Thanks again to all involved!
Debbie Fox, VBS Director



DAILY SERVICE PROJECTS AT G—FORCE ADVENTURE PARK

The children were involved with many service projects during VBS. We had an enthusiastic, caring, generous and loving group this year, which made our projects a great success!

The Offering: The boys and girls had a contest to see who could collect the most money during the week. All week they filled up jars and collected \$389.63. The girls collected a total of \$216.33 for the week; and the boys, \$173.30. This money will be divided and donated to *Make A Wish* and *Zion's Food Pantry*. We stressed each day that the contest was a friendly one and that the real winners are the charities that we chose. Our kids did a great job! Thank you to all!

Zion's Food Pantry: The children brought in food items to fill our "Food Wagon" in Luther Hall. These items will go to Zion's Food Pantry to help persons in need in our community! Like last year, we gave the kids a "Food Pantry Challenge" to help collect items that are greatly needed by our pantry. We asked the kids to bring in cereal, spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, peanut butter and jelly all week long. The kids met and exceeded this challenge and served their community so generously! The "Food Wagon" was filled to overflowing by week's end! Again, thanks to everyone for your support!

Quilt Squares: The children designed beautiful quilt squares again this year. This is one of our favorite traditions at VBS. Zion's Comfort Givers were able to sew nine beautiful quilts from the squares the children and our VBS staff created. Eight of these quilts will be sent to Lutheran World Relief to help those in need across the globe. Ava Plummer, a student in Miss Connie's class, was the lucky winner of the ninth quilt in this year's quilt raffle. Congratulations, Ava! Special thanks go out to our quilters for the extra day they stayed to sew because of all the squares created this year. We are so grateful to all of you! Thanks to Kat Milek for her beautiful art work on the many squares she designed this year; thanks to the children; thanks to the rest of the staff; and thanks to our amazing quilters for all your hard work!

Daily Service Projects: The children worked on special projects throughout the week that stressed our daily themes. In addition to the projects listed above, the kids brought in school supplies each day to help our pantry families. The children made prayer boxes on Tuesday to remind them to pray everyday. Inside the boxes the kids are to keep pieces of paper with names of people to pray for or wishes for things like peace in the world and cures for illnesses. The kids can pull the papers out each day to help them to remember to pray for those people or the hopes they treasure. The kids made "I Care" pots on Wednesday, when they decorated pots and planted a vegetable or herb to care for and then share with someone. On Friday, the kids made Cheetah Chow (trail mix) to share with someone. Several of the classes went around to find people at church to share their bag with, while many kids took bags home to share with family, friends or a neighbor. What a great job done by everyone all week long!

Daily Homework: The children were challenged each day to go home and put their faith in action. They were challenged to serve God by doing the word of the day, much like those in the daily Bible lessons did: MOVE, ACT, CARE, FOLLOW, SHARE! Each morning they reported back, and we were all amazed at all of the wonderful things they did to serve God.

HERE'S SOME GOOD NEWS ABOUT ZION'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Happy Birthday to:



UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Sunday, September 6: *Rally Day* marks the beginning of yet another Sunday School Year
Sunday, September 6: Yes! We will enjoy another edition of our End-of-the-Summer Party!
Sunday, September 13: The *2015-16 Sunday School Year* begins with classes for all ages!

SUNDAY SCHOOL REMINDER FOR PRE-K THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL

We are taking a break this summer from Sunday School. There are no Sunday School classes for Pre-K through High School this summer. We will start up again in September when we kick off the Sunday School year with Rally Day on Sunday, September 6, 2015; and classes will start up again on Sunday, September 13th.

We want to send out a big hug and thank you from the bottom of our hearts to Renee Keith for all that she does in service to our youth! She has been a great Catechism teacher for many years. The Confirmands love her, and they learn a lot about growing in love and service by grace, along with lessons from *Martin Luther's Small Catechism*. For the last four years she has also served as our Learning Ministry Elder on Church Council. We can't thank her enough; and we appreciate everything she does to contribute to the cause of Christian education at Zion.

DON'T FORGET RALLY DAY AT ZION ON SEPTEMBER 6TH!

We will kick off the new Sunday School year with Rally Day on Sunday, September 6, beginning at 9:15 a.m. and continuing through the Sunday School hour. There will be snacks and fun activities planned for the kids! It will be a great day of fun and fellowship for all.

As is traditionally the case, actual classes for Sunday School will begin the following Sunday on September 13th. We look forward to classes of all ages, especially to our class for adults, which will feature the always popular, and instructive, Jeff Hissong!

ONE FINAL THOUGHT: THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

Thank you again to everyone for your support of all our service projects during Vacation Bible School! It was a week that continued our great tradition of service at Zion's VBS, and we made great strides in all we achieved. We could see God's love at work everywhere we turned! There's just no substitute for that. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you, again!

NEWS FROM COUNCIL

Property Ministry: We held out hope that with Darlene Milavickas leading the way, we might actually be able to assemble a large enough crew to pull off a painting party at the parsonage! Well, it didn't happen. Our pool of volunteers willing to work on the parsonage has dwindled over the years; and this is really no surprise. The Trustees observed as much when we began in April to assess the work required; plus, conversations that we've had about the parsonage in Luther Hall between the services have also covered this ground. We thank those who showed interest; but it was another realistic reminder that we will need to think long and hard about what the next chapter for the parsonage should be.

Worship Ministry: With summer giving way to a new choral season, the Worship Ministry and our Search Team resolved to move forward in our desire to complete our work in hiring a Senior Choir Director. While we were thankful for an interim arrangement that took us through the entire choral year, it is now time to invite applications, schedule interviews, and recommend a selection for Council's decision. Members of the Search Team continue to include Dale Jacobs, Carol Rossbach, Darlene Milavickas, and Pastor Sherwindt. Those who are interested have been invited to apply; and we look forward to starting a new choral year in September.

Caring Ministry: The Stark County Hunger Task Force, the over-arching, county-wide organization with which our food pantry has been affiliated for many years, has decided to take on the challenge of a \$250,000 fund-raising initiative, and has asked its satellite affiliates for help. Council agreed to share a portion of the funds we raise with our *End-of-the-Summer Party* to help their cause, and ours.

**IT'S A GREAT WAY TO
END THE SUMMER:**

**ZION'S "END OF THE
SUMMER" PARTY!**

**LABOR DAY WEEKEND
SUNDAY AFTERNOON
SEPTEMBER 6TH, 2015**

**WE'VE MASTERED THE PLAN
WORSHIP: 8 am & 10:30 am**

SNACKS at 12:30 p.m.

FOOD at 1:00 p.m.

Clean-up at 3:30 p.m.

Pulled Pork, Beef, Chicken,
Fish, Shrimp, and More
Hot Dogs, Hamburgers
Baked Beans, Cole Slaw
Lots of Great Desserts



Good Fun, Great Food, Fabulous Fellowship
A Fun Way to Raise Funds for a Good Cause

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

June began a new study for the *Women of Zion, Give in Secret*. That focus continued in July with Luke 21:1-4 turning our attention to the widow's mite. August reminds us that *God Loves a Cheerful Giver*. Emma Crossen continues as our guide, with 2 Corinthians 9:7 serving as our focus verse: "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." The Greek word translated as "cheerful" is *hilaron*, as in hilarity. In Paul's day this word was often associated with festivals, great fun, and celebrations. Celebrate giving! Have fun with it! Let it be the source of great joy. Please join the Women of Zion for their monthly Bible study in August, which is on the calendar for **Tuesday, August 18th**, beginning at **9:30 a.m.** in Zion's Resource Center.

The Rev. Liv Larson Andrews, Pastor of Salem Lutheran Church in Spokane, WA, who dreams of hosting a lectionary-based cooking show, hopes to take the *rush* out of our experience of time, and replace it with the kind of *Sabbath rest* that brings refreshment. The new series that begins in September is entitled *Sabbath Keeping*, and Session One focuses on *Slow Faith*. Pastor Liv begins with a funny story from 1986: "When McDonald's planned to open a restaurant on the Spanish Steps in Rome, Italian townspeople took to the streets holding bowls of penne pasta and signs that read, 'We don't want fast food! We want slow food!'" McDonald's, McBurgers, McLiving, McChurch: is that the pace we seek? The Women of Zion will be looking at Exodus 20:8-11 and Deuteronomy 5:12-15 as we seek to understand what God intended with His gift of the third commandment. Please join in on Tuesday, September 15th, 9:30 a.m. in the Resource Center.

THE WOMEN OF ZION

The Comfort Givers met during the week of Vacation Bible School, and did a great job organizing scores of quilt squares into nine beautiful quilts, eight of which will become a part of Blanket Sunday in October.

We would like to thank Zion's Comfort Givers for their hard work: Kay Davis, Sue Geib, Joyce Gibeaut, Helen Heller, Linda Lancashire, Kay Reiss, Donna Roan, Carol Snyder, Patty Stayer, Betty Tracy, and Linda Wilson. It makes a difference having the whole community involved in Vacation Bible School, and it's clear that our women look forward to the fun this collaborative connection affords. They'll be taking the month of August off, and will return to their regular schedule in September.

As we continue to think about service, *the Women of Zion* thank you in advance for your help with School Kits and Personal Care Kits this year. **PERSONAL CARE KITS** include a bath-size towel (approximately 52" X 27", darker colors recommended), 2 bath-size bars of soap (4 to 5 oz.), an adult-size toothbrush (in its original packaging), a sturdy comb, and a metal nail clipper. **SCHOOL KITS** include four 70-sheet notebooks, one 12-inch and 30-centimeter ruler, a pencil sharpener, blunt scissors, 5 unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers, 5 black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink), a box of 16 or 24 crayons, an eraser 2 ½ inches in length, and a sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag approximately 14" X 17" with shoulder straps. There are always such good *back-to-school* sales that we wanted to share this information now. Don't forget that cash donations are as useful as your shopping for the items. We'll be happy to do the shopping if you provide the cash! Thank you, and God bless you!

IN LOVING MEMORY

Nancy Meuschke, of Lakeside-Marblehead, died Thursday, July 30, 2015, in St. Vincent Charity Hospital, Toledo, Ohio. She was born in Columbus, was a graduate of Capital University, and taught school at Margaretta in Castalia. Nancy and her late husband, Pastor Kurt Meuschke, served our church family of Zion Lutheran Church for over sixteen years, from May 1968 through August 1984, and enjoyed many years of phenomenal growth. Nancy is survived by her children, the Rev. Dane (Kris) Meuschke of Stryker, Ohio, Darrell Meuschke of Louisville, Kentucky, and Danielle (James) Montgomery of East Aurora, New York; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; a niece, nephew, three great-nephews and a great-niece. Nancy and Pastor Kurt were foster parents to more than twenty children.

In lieu of flowers, Zion offered a single generous donation in Nancy's memory to St. John's in Lakeside-Marblehead. Pastor Sherwindt included the following note: "On behalf of the Zion family, I would like to express our heartfelt sympathies as you grieve the loss of one so dearly loved. While our faith is strong in believing that the promise of resurrection embraces each of God's children with a divine destiny that leads to eternal life, all of us were deeply saddened as regular updates surprised us with news we wished had been other. The wisdom of God's ways is gracious, and we trust God's gracious love will sustain you during these difficult times. The Meuschke family is held in high regard with much affection at Zion. The memorial gift to St. John's Lutheran Church in Nancy's memory represents a long list of dear friends and longtime members who share a desire to honor the ties that bind our hearts in Christian love."

THANK YOU'S & MORE

Dear Pastor Sherwindt and friends at Zion,

Thank you, Pastor, for your visits while I was in the hospital. It meant so much to Ron and me. I would also like to thank you and my church family for your prayers. I know the success of my surgery and therapy is due to the help of God and the support of my brothers and sisters in Christ. It is a joy to know that God answers our prayers through special people like you.

*Thank you so much,
Miriam Keating*

JUNE'S BUDGET SURPLUS

Our meeting in July included our newest Council members. Council President called our meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Dale Jacobs led devotions. Others in attendance included Carol Rossbach (Vice President), Dave Palumbo (Treasurer), Jayne Schrader (Council Secretary), Randy Cizek (Social Outreach), Ron Tvorik (Caring), Jim Fidler (Resource), Todd Elsass (Property), Pastor Sherwindt. Excused were Howard Dansizen (Witness), Heather Hoffman (Parish Life), and Janet Slease (Learning).

The Treasurer's Report offered the good news that operating revenues exceeded expenses by \$100.74 in June, leaving us with a year-to-date surplus of \$610.88. Our Congregational Meeting went very well, with a full slate of candidates accepted by unanimous voice vote, and two resolutions approved with overwhelming support. The first resolution affirmed now commonly known facts that there are no covenants that restrict our ability to buy or sell property. The second resolution approved funds to prepare the parsonage for its next chapter. We conducted our business swiftly, and ended with the Lord's Prayer at 7:45 p.m.

JULY'S BUDGET DEFICIT

Our Council has not yet met in August to review our financial facts for July; but with the month now behind us, we know that while expenses were light, income was lighter. July was both a summer month and a four-Sunday month. While income overall was very encouraging, operating budget income fell short; and we ran a monthly deficit of \$962.48. Since our year-to-date budget surplus through the end of June was just \$610.88, July's monthly deficit turned this into a year-to-date deficit of \$351.60.

It is not uncommon to have a year-to-date operating budget deficit as we work our way through the summer months. Last year, we had a year-to-date deficit of \$83.65 through July. What makes our challenge this year unique is our knowledge of needing to make it through the year without the extra boost that our rental income added to our totals. We are confident that we can stay on course toward balancing our budget yet again; but we will need our members to be attentive to our needs and responsive when it comes to stepping up with some timely generosity. Let's make August the month we turn the corner and look to finish the year strong.

<u>ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS FOR JUNE</u>	
June Income	13,930.19
June Expenses	<u>13,829.45</u>
June Surplus	\$ 100.74
Income through June	114,508.90
Expenses through June	<u>113,898.02</u>
2015 YTD Surplus	\$ 610.88
Our Food Pantry Fund	\$7,760.24
Zion's Youth Fund	\$6,310.36
2015 Advanced Giving	\$7,500.00
<i>We thank you for your generous support!</i>	

<u>ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS FOR JULY</u>	
July Income	15,367.32
July Expenses	<u>16,329.80</u>
July Deficit	(\$ 962.48)
Income through July	129,876.22
Expenses through July	<u>130,227.82</u>
2015 YTD Deficit	(\$ 351.60)
Our Food Pantry Fund	\$7,885.24
Zion's Youth Fund	\$6,889.44
2015 Advanced Giving	\$4,500.00
<i>We thank you for your faithful support!</i>	
