

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR:

We began the month of May with a very successful call to action in contributing to the Stark County *Feed the Need Hunger Walk* hosted by our partners at Community Christian Church, with the aim of contributing to the ministry of another of our partners at the Akron Canton Regional Foodbank. Mission accomplished, with thanks to our youth, their families, and our congregational family, too! It wasn't long before the Youth of Zion (and their families) gathered in force yet again, this time at *Carrabba's Italian Grille* to celebrate the upcoming Rite of Confirmation for eight of our younger members. What a class, and what a group! Thirty of us enjoyed delicious food and a wonderful sense of camaraderie because of the great work that Renee Keith (Confirmation Instructor) and Debbie Fox (Christian Education Director) have done by including all the Confirmands in our mission of growing in love and service by grace.

The next weekend was the Festival of Pentecost, which has always been a very big day in the life of the church. That first Pentecost was the birth of the church as the Body of Christ. For our Northeastern Ohio Synod Pentecost has proven to be a good time to call for a Synod Assembly; this year's Assembly gathered on the Friday and Saturday of May 13–14 under the banner of *being the church for the sake of the world*. God calls us to show the world what it means to be the world by our being the church. 1 Peter 2:9 tells us that we are a *chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people*. This means that we've been set apart by God, called by our Lord Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit to become witnesses to the kind of life trusting God's grace makes possible and living Christ's love can make real. Our job is not to be a better world, but to show the world that it is the world; and we do this by being the church.

We often miss this crucial part of our mission as God's people, mostly because we often miss the real gift that God gives the world with Christ's resurrection life. We think of salvation as a gift given primarily to me, receiving free of charge a ticket to ride that bus that's going to heaven, where my life will never end, along with the lives of loved ones, too. We think that the community aspect of being Christians is an incidental extra added to the real gift of my being saved. But in Scripture (and history), the Christian community is God's gift of salvation to the world. It is what Jesus proclaimed, namely, the arrival of *the kingdom of God*, which is another way of referring to *the community of God's people*. After Jesus was raised from the dead, forty days later he ascended into heaven. People asked where in the world we would find Jesus' body. Ten days later – on Pentecost – we learned that we would find the Body of Christ in the church, the community of God's people, gathered together in Jesus' name.

New community is the gift of the gospel. The new community that came to life as the Body of Christ is God's gift to the world. The story of the Easter chicken, which we shared again with our Confirmands this year, reminds us that as God's Easter people we are not just painted a beautiful pastel purple so that we look different on the outside. We're not just different on the outside. Our job isn't just to show the world how to fit in. God empowers us to be the Body of Christ. God wants us to trust His grace and live His love. God wants us to live in such a way that the world can see what trusting God's grace makes possible, and what living Christ's love can actually make real. The world is starving for models of community that God has called the church to be, inclusive, redemptive, and empowering. Let's be that kind of community.

CHURCH COUNCIL, PART 1

We decided to schedule two meetings in May. Since Bishop Allende was joining us to talk about the call process, we decided to honor his time commitment by shifting all of our regular business to the night before. We met for ordinary business on Monday, May 16. Mark Votaw called our meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Dale Jacobs led devotions. Also present were Carol Rossbach, Dave Palumbo, Jayne Schrader, Jim Fidler, Janet Slease, Ron Tvorik, Heather Hoffman, and Pastor.

Dave Palumbo provided a Treasurer's Report filled with good news. While we ran a small monthly deficit in April, we still maintained a year-to-date surplus for the first third of the year. May is a five-Sunday month, and should add to this surplus. We look forward to our mid-year Congregational Meeting, which we have scheduled for Wednesday, June 29th, when we will elect members to serve on Council, as Deacons, and with the Trustees. The evening begins with a light dinner in Memorial Hall served by Council members at 6:15 p.m., which is followed by our Congregational Meeting, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS FOR APRIL

April Income	27,665.88
April Expenses	<u>28,004.35</u>
April Deficit	(338.47)
Income through April	92,553.43
Expenses through April	<u>92,375.40</u>
2016 YTD Surplus	178.03
Our Food Pantry Fund	\$ 7,620.53
Zion's Youth Fund	\$ 9,332.55
Advanced Giving	\$ 7,535.00
Early Bird Giving	\$ 1,535.00
Bicentennial Projects Fund	\$11,109.14

We thank you for your generous support!

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

Parsonage News: We have begun the process of listing the parsonage for rent in the *Canton Repository* (Sunday edition) as a North Canton home with 3-4 bedrooms, 2½ baths, living room, dining room, great room, home office, 2-car garage, on a spacious lot. The monthly rent is \$1,200.⁰⁰. We anticipate mowing the lawn and other responsibilities are negotiable. If you know of anyone who might have an interest, let the Church Office know. We've received some interest, and hope to move forward quickly. We thank everyone who has helped us get the house ready with painting, carpeting, new drapes in the living room and great room, some new lighting in the kitchen, a new kitchen floor, a new dishwasher, and a great and thorough cleaning. We extend our thanks to all!

New Carpet in Luther Hall: It's in! We had some great help getting Luther Hall ready. Clarence Givler brought his crew, namely, his sister, Linda Smith, and they were joined by Carl Geib and newcomer, Dan Nicol. They pulled the carpet up off the floor. Then Dan Wilson, Loren Burzycki, Tim Himebaugh, and Pastor cut it, rolled it, and took it out to the dumpster. Loren, Pastor Sherwindt, Dave Palumbo, and Brian Walters scraped the weather damage off a beam in Luther Hall, prepared it for painting, and then painted it. On Tuesday, May 24, Heritage Carpet & Flooring began to install new carpet (and new coving); they finished everything the next day. We extend our thanks to all!

The storage garage has new lighting! In the meantime, Chris Thomas was working on some lighting and electrical issues identified by the Fire Inspector on the inside and outside of our storage garage. Due to Chris' persistence and perseverance, we're happy to say that it passed its most recent inspection!

MORE COUNCIL NEWS

Work on West-side Doors: We've accepted a bid from Stark Glass to replace the kitchen door to the parking lot and repair the double doors leading from Luther Hall to the parking lot. The damage to the threshold of the door in the kitchen is extensive. That door will be replaced. Reinforcing the frame of the heavy double doors leading out of Luther Hall, along with attaching a wind chain to the left-side door could be all the solution we need. The double doors are quite heavy, and groups using those doors for access often prop them open for convenience. Unfortunately, the wind can catch them, and it has too often. The ultimate solution resides in not propping the doors open; but we're hoping that reinforcing the frames will get them working properly for now.

Weeding, Planting, and Mulching: With thanks to Verle & Ruth Elsass and their family (especially daughters Faye and Gail), to Jayne Schrader and her family (especially Renee and her sons, Ben & Drew), to Carol Rossbach, and to the many members and friends who donated red geraniums for Pentecost, we look forward to a colorful summer. We also extend our thanks to Todd Elsass and a friend, to Christopher Thompson, his mother, Laura, and her mother, Kay Reiss, to Mark Votaw, Heather Hoffman, Darlene Milavickas, and Pastor for helping to spread the 10 yards of mulch we had delivered over Memorial Day Weekend. Betty Boettler was also very instrumental in contributing to the cause. We are making progress, inside and out, and we thank you for the generosity of many in sharing their time, talents, and treasures with Zion.

Our Thanks to All!

NEO SYNOD ASSEMBLY

We Are Church for the Sake of the World: Ron Tvorik and Miriam Keating enjoyed their experience as voting delegates representing Zion at the 2016 Northeastern Ohio Synod Assembly, which was held at the John S. Knight Center in Akron on May 13 & 14. As a very active member in the Coast Guard Reserve, Ron loves schedules and being on time; and the Synod Assembly was in order and on schedule! Interspersed between the many business meetings and committee reports, we enjoyed some great treats for breakfast and lunch on Friday. What anchored this year's Synod Assembly was worship, plenty of it and nicely done: an Opening Eucharist to get things started on Friday, with Evening Prayer to end the day; and then Morning Prayer on Saturday, with our Closing Eucharist to send us home.

Workshops were another strength, which both Ron and Miriam enjoyed. Miriam is an avid camper, and she was much impressed by the possibilities for camping ministries here in northeast Ohio, with Camp Luther in Conneaut, Camp Mowana in Mansfield, and Camp Frederick east of us in Rogers. She and Ron enjoyed the workshop that dealt with talking about race cross-culturally; and both also enjoyed the workshop on hunger ministries here in Ohio and throughout the ELCA. They also enjoyed the workshop that focused on encouraging congregations to share ministries and work collaboratively in areas where they can do more together, given the limitations we can encounter in trying to stay the course alone.

Our connection with the Synod carried over into the next week, when Bishop Allende was scheduled to join us at our Council Meeting on Tuesday, May 17th. (You can read more about this meeting on page 10.)

GREAT NEWS FROM ZION'S SUNDAY SCHOOL



Happy Birthday to:

UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Week of July 11–15: This is the week we'll celebrate VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT ZION!

Sunday, September 4th: We kick off a new program year with our End-of-the-Summer Party!

Sunday, September 11th: The start of the 2016-17 Sunday School: New Classes Begin Today!

FROM KINDERGARTEN TO HIGH SCHOOL

As a reminder, we will be taking a break this summer from Sunday School. There will be no Sunday School classes this summer. We will start up again in September when we kick off the Sunday School year with Rally Day on Sunday, September 4, 2016, and classes will start up the next week on Sunday, September 11th.

We again want to thank all of our families for participating in Sunday School this year; and we want to thank all of the Sunday School staff and teachers for their time and dedication to the awesome youth of Zion.

Thank you to our great teachers and helpers: Corlene Coulter, Vicki Givler, Miriam Keating, Chrissy Parkomaki, Connie Riffle, and Janet Slease. It is an awesome group of volunteers that our kids truly enjoy!



Thank you to Renee Keith for teaching the Confirmation Class again this year. Every year that Renee does this we rediscover just how much our Confirmands really enjoy their time during Catechism because of the great job she does! And thank you to Laura Thompson for leading the High School Class this year. We couldn't do what we do without you. We very much appreciate everyone's flexibility and willingness to help! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you for all you do!

THE 2016 "FEED THE NEED" HUNGER WALK

There were twenty-one of us, plus three dogs (Chloe, Brodie, and Scout), and together we raised \$3,351.20! That's right: \$3,351.20! Can you believe it! We thank our walkers: Dean, Debbie, Nathan, and Jeremy Fox, plus a friend, Kyle Kopp, Laura and Christopher Thompson, and their neighbor, Brandon Snyder, Casey Walters, Mark Votaw, Jayne Schrader, Renee, Ben, and Drew Keith, Cassie Frank, Sydney Pepper, Cathy Harvey, Connie Riffle, Janet Slease, Dean Yoder, and Pastor Sherwindt. Just as importantly, we thank all of you for your generous support! The Stark County chapter of this regional effort to support the work of the Akron Canton Regional Foodbank raised more than \$15,000.00, thanks, in part, to us; and the good news is that every penny we raised will be used to support the work of this important partner of ours in the battle against the effects of hunger in northeast Ohio. Thanks so much. Your support has been incredible!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2016
 IT'S A "DEEP SEA DISCOVERY"
 MONDAY THRU FRIDAY, JULY 11—15

Mark your calendars now, and plan on joining us Monday through Friday, July 11th–15th, for Vacation Bible School this year. The format will be very similar to last year. On Monday through Thursday, we will meet from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. On Friday, since Friday is traditionally Water Day, we will meet from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Registration and sign-in will begin each day at 8:45 a.m., which is a little earlier than normal; but the good news is that we will be able to get our mornings started right at 9:00 a.m. That's the plan; and don't forget that we will still have our Family Night and Ice Cream Social on Thursday evening at 7:00 pm.

The kids will dive deep into God's presence in a week-long adventure where they will learn that God is with them wherever they go! They will KNOW God is always with them, EXPLORE His presence in their lives, and SERVE God by serving others! The daily themes will be God KNOWS me, God HEARS me, God STRENGTHENS me, God LOVES me, and God SENDS me. There will be great lessons, great music, fun games, delicious snacks, lots of crafts, and service projects, too, lots of them.

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 & 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 8th**, in order to help us order sufficient supplies. We will still accept registrations during the week of VBS if space is available.

We have a busy week planned! We'll get started on Monday with lots of fun and activities! Wednesday will be T-Shirt day, so each child will need a white T-shirt with their name on the label by pick-up 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 afterwards. We will also have our *Quilt Raffle* that evening. Then, Friday will be our big DEEP SEA DISCOVERY adventure day! 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 on Friday! 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, staff and parents, as we all learn about God's Presence in our lives!

SERVICE AT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

As always, we will focus on service this year, a great tradition at Zion's VBS. We have planned many service projects in the ECHO Sea Sub – some familiar, and some different. The children will experience how important serving others and God is in their lives!

We hope our children will see that no matter how old we are, we can truly make a difference!



SERVICE PROJECTS IN THE E.C.H.O. SEA SUB

THE DAILY 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 a charity chosen during the week.



ZION'S FOOD PANTRY – We ask that each child bring in a food item each day, if possible. The most needed items are cereal, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, jelly and macaroni & cheese. This food will help stock Zion's Food Pantry, which has been about the ministry of helping many families in the community for over fifteen years.



QUILT SQUARES – The children will once again create quilt squares for Zion's Comfort Givers to sew quilts for Lutheran World Relief. We will raffle one quilt, chosen by the winner, on Thursday evening at the Ice Cream Social. Tickets will be available during the week. As usual, it's one ticket for a dollar, or six tickets for five dollars. Join us for all the fun!

DAILY PROJECTS – The children will work on several service projects throughout the week at Zion and at home. We really like to make the connection between what we learn at church and what we do at home.



SCHOOL KITS – We will be collecting various items for school kits to help children in our community. We will distribute these school kits through our Food Pantry to Urban Ark Ministries and local schools. 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 14th. If anyone in the congregation is interested in donating items, please leave the items in the Church Office.

We are looking forward to a great week and hope you will join us! 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, call Debbie Fox at 330-966-2433, or email her at dfox521@sbcglobal.net.
As always, thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone for all your great support! It is deeply appreciated.



THE WOMEN OF ZION

Our schedule shifts to summer, and Angela Shannon takes the lead in mapping out lessons that get to *The Heart of the Matter—Conflict, Forgiveness, and Reconciliation*. Session 1 lifts up a theme we find in 2 Corinthians 4:7, *Treasure in Earthen Vessels*. We've heard the age-old advice before, forgive and forget. Sometimes sin requires more, and grace demands more. Reconciliation demands that we tell the truth ... to ourselves, and others. Our Bible study this month provides a great opportunity to talk about the role of forgiveness in leading through conflict to being at one with ourselves, God, and one another. You are welcome to join the Women of Zion for their **monthly Bible study**, which is set for the morning of June 21st, at 9:30 a.m., in the Resource Center. Try it; you'll like it!

Zion's Comfort Givers will meet on their regular schedule of the second and fourth Thursdays in June, the 9th & 23rd. Then next month it's Vacation Bible School! That means that our quilters will meet Monday through Thursday, and sometimes on Friday, the week of July 11 through 15. We invite our VBS kids to draw on the squares that are sewn into quilts, and then sent around the world through Lutheran World Relief. So, in June, it's the 9th and the 23rd, when our quilters meet in Luther Hall at 9:30 a.m. We can use your help. So, if you are able, please plan to join us. In July we will need even more help! Plan to join us. You'll be glad you did; and so will we!

Coloring with Carol is on the calendar for Wednesday, June 8th, at 7:00 p.m. We're looking to make a connection between the enjoyment that comes through coloring and the satisfaction we feel when we're at peace. You might be surprised by how much you enjoy this. Join in and find out!

THANK YOU'S & MORE

We extend a great big THANK YOU to Russell Hisson for the time he took to disassemble the moving parts of our grandfather clock in Luther Hall so that we could install new carpet, and then to reassemble all the moving parts properly so that the clock is in good working order again. This is also a good time to thank Larry Elsass for this gift to Zion, and his oversight in maintaining it.

Dear Pastor Sherwindt and Members of Zion,
I would like to say thank you to all who called and sent cards during my recent surgery and recovery time. I would also like to thank Pastor for his visits both before and after surgery. I found them very comforting and they were deeply appreciated. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at worship as soon as mobility allows.

*Very sincerely,
Mabel Kolarik*

BISHOP VISITS COUNCIL

Special Guest, Bishop Abraham Allende, was the reason we decided to call a special Council Meeting on Monday for ordinary business, while reserving all of our Council Meeting on Tuesday to focus entirely on the call process awaiting us. Bishop Allende arrived, and the meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Sherwindt led devotions. Also present were Mark Votaw, Carol Rossbach, Jayne Schrader, Dave Palumbo, Dale Jacobs, Heather Hoffman, Todd Elsass, Jim Fidler, Janet Slease, and Ron Tvorik.

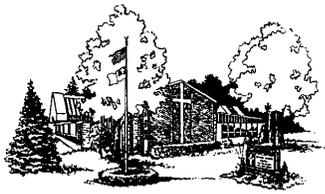
Bishop Allende walked through the call process step by step, taking as much time as any needed to know who was doing what and when. We will want to have a Call Committee in place on August 1st. Before we get to August 1st, we will take a moment on Sunday, July 31st, to commemorate the end of Pastor Sherwindt's tenure with a rite of blessing, commendation, and farewell. Both the Pastor and our Congregation need to know that when a pastor's tenure ends, intentional distance must be created so that the congregation can move on to its next chapter. Issues of pastoral care will be handled by the hiring of an Interim Pastor.

All agreed that it is our goal to have an Interim Pastor in place with the arrival of September. Our *End-of-the-Summer Party* on Sunday, September 4th, could serve as an excellent opportunity to welcome the arrival of our new Interim Pastor. It will take sustained focus, but Bishop Allende, the Bishop's Assistant, Pr. Karl Biermann, and Council leadership are committed to doing what we must to help make this happen. Our Interim Pastor cannot become a candidate for receiving our call; but the Interim's presence will help keep us on track in moving forward toward that end.

THE CALL PROCESS (CONT'D)

There is much that we will be required to do as we work through the call process. We will produce a *congregational profile* for the Bishop and his staff to understand what we need in our next pastor. This profile can be used to describe our church to potential candidates. The ELCA has entered the 21st century, and the internet is used, both within our Synod and among the 65 Synods that make us who we are churchwide. While some aspects of the call process will look like what we have experienced in the past, the process has learned from the past and is much more open to learning how best to expand the pool of potential candidates. One area where it is still the same involves the need for prayer and discernment, so that we can move forward with deliberate speed, and move forward together ... with the Call Committee, the Church Council, and the Congregation in sync, with our being one in call, one in mission, and one in the Spirit.

Under the leadership of our President, Mark Votaw, Council is considering the kind of Call Committee we want to appoint. Mark is also in conversation with Pr. Karl Biermann as they try to anticipate how to have an Interim Pastor in place by September. We have already made progress in thinking about what a congregational profile might look like. We are not trying to get ahead of ourselves. We understand that the Pastor will retire, a pastoral vacancy will result, and the Synod staff will provide demographic materials we'll need to examine in order to move forward. It is good to know that although filling a pastoral vacancy isn't something we experience all that often, on average once every 13 or 14 years, the Synod staff has the experience, the wisdom, and a plan for helping us do just that.



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

349 Lindy Lane Ave NW
North Canton, OH 44720

The Rev. Mark Sherwindt
Senior Pastor

Mark A. Votaw,
Zion's President

Carol Rossbach,
Vice President

Jayne Schrader,
Council Secretary

Dave Palumbo,
Church Treasurer

Ron Tvorik,
Caring Ministry

Jim Fidler,
Resource Ministry

Janet Slease,
Learning Ministry

Heather Hoffman,
Parish Life Ministry

Todd Elsass,
Property Ministry

Randy Cizek,
Social Ministry

Howard Dansizen,
Witness/Website

Dale Jacobs,
Worship Ministry

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

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AT ZION WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 2016

Dear Family of Zion:

This is a reminder of our Congregational Meeting on **Wednesday, June 29, 2016**, which begins with a dinner in Memorial Hall at 6:15 p.m. Current members of the Church Council will host and serve the dinner. Our meeting will follow in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. This is a great time for fellowship with your family at Zion.

Our Spring Meeting typically focuses on the election of members to serve with Church Council, the Deacons and Trustees. This year's June meeting will remain on that track. We also want to make sure that we are all on the same page as we head into the call process.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

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

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

This is a great time to show your support for Zion. I look forward to seeing you at our meeting. That's **Wednesday, June 29**, beginning with dinner at 6:15 p.m.

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

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

