



## My Very Best to You Dear Friends in Christ,

Hi! My name is Haldon Robarge. Most members of congregations I have served called me Pastor Hal; some call me Hal. I've been called other names that I will not mention here. My wife, Margie, who has put up with me since our marriage in 1956 calls me Haldon. We both grew up in Toledo. I met her when I came home from Capital University during a Christmas break. She had joined St. James Lutheran Church, where I was a member, and was singing in the choir. She was (and still is) beautiful. Of course I had to meet her – and I did! The rest is history. Those of you who know me, can you imagine her putting up with me for over 60 years – well she has and is still going strong. I also now have less hair than when this picture was taken.

I have enjoyed serving as a parish pastor since 1959, 47 years with calls to serve as a full-time pastor. After 10 years serving at St. Peter Lutheran Church, Norwalk, Ohio, in 1969, I accepted a call to Trinity, Girard, Ohio, where I served for 17 years. I was called to Bethel at Canton in 1986 and served there 12 years before accepting the call to St. Paul, Greenville, Ohio. In 2006 I retired from St. Paul

I have served as an interim pastor in 9 different congregations since then, almost continuously, with very little time off in between interims. Each congregation had its own “personality” and some had issues that needed to be addressed. Some of the issues were about power and control issues, conflict with previous pastor(s), internal conflict between members, limited financial resources and theological differences. Others just needed time to cope with feelings of grief and anger and other emotions associated with their pastor's leaving. The congregations ranged from rural, small to town, and city locations. Some facilities were large, with seating of 600, one had a seating capacity of 400 and a theatre seating 200, to somewhat smaller and limited facilities. My time of service at each ranged from 4½ months to 3½ years. I am grateful to God that he has blessed me with good health to enable me to continue serving this way.

The last Sunday in July of this year, I was invited to share in the celebration of St. John Lutheran Church's 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Dayton (Dogleg) that I served as its interim. The Southern Ohio Bishop, Suzanne Darcy Dillahunt, was present along with three former called pastors. Bishop Dillahunt asked me to greet the members of Zion so, “Greetings from Bishop Dillahunt.” Some of you may remember that her grandfather, Pastor Ruth, served as Zion's pastor in the 50s. Carol (Ruth) Darcy is the mother of Bishop Dillahunt and daughter of Pastor Ruth. Carol was also a classmate of mine at Capital University. I also officiated at the marriage of Pastors Brian and Suzanne Dillahunt.

**These are special times...** it's **God's time** for **God's special people** to gather and faithfully worship him each Lord's Day.

**This is a time** to invite others to thank God as we remember that he came to earth as our Savior, suffered, died, and rose from the grave in victory over sin, Satan, and death!

**This is an opportunity** to seek, ask and bring others with you to worship, celebrate God's unconditional, awesome, incomprehensible, and amazing love in Christ our Lord.

I look forward to meeting you and seeing you at one of Zion's exciting and inspiring worship services a smile on your face, a Bible in your hand, and a friend by your side whom you brought with you!

God bless you and may his abundant, overwhelming, extraordinary, everlasting, inexpressible, incomprehensible, amazing, unconditional, awesome, undeserving, incredible love be with you all. How's that for some astounding adverbs describing God's love. Enjoy it!!!

*Pastor Hal*

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

### ***Thank You Pastor Mark.***

The end of July concluded Pastor Sherwindt's tenure with Zion Lutheran Church. I would like to personally thank Pastor Mark for 14 years of faithful service. Together we have enjoyed a vibrant ministry, serving folks across the street, across the country and around the world. We had a fantastic send-off celebration. Thank you all for your generosity. I know the Sherwindts were very thankful for all of your efforts.

### ***Interim Ministry***

With the departure of Pastor Sherwindt, we begin our process of calling a new pastor. We welcome Pastor Haldon (Hal) Robarge to be our Interim Minister. He will start on the first of September and will be in the pulpit on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Robarge has two distinct mandates. The first is to facilitate worship at Zion until the time that we call a new clergy person. The second is to help us transition from Pastor Mark to the new pastor. For many of us Pastor and Mark and Zion have been synonymous. We started coming to Zion in 2003 (I think) so have never known it any other way. Making room for a new way to do things takes time. We also need to make decisions about where we want to go, what we want to do, and what we want in a new pastor. That is a process. It is a path that Pastor Hal has helped congregations walk several times in the last 15 years. Council will be working with Pastor Hal to build programs that will give us all opportunity for constructive conversation about where we want to go.

### ***Figuring it all out***

We are starting to realize all of the tasks that Pastor Sherwindt just handled throughout our community. We are starting to get a handle on some of those. Vicki Givler has been hired as our Church Secretary. Jayne and Carol are helping her to get up to speed quickly. Thank you Ladies! You will notice that the newsletter has a myriad of voices this month: Council members are picking up a lot of those tasks. We hope there are not too many balls that get dropped. If you see something that needs to get done please let me know.

We are looking forward to the Great Grill Off! This year we are welcoming Pastor Robarge, helping the Food Panty and Kicking off the new program year. All are great reasons to come out and spend some time with your Zion family on Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup> after the second service. We are still looking for Grillers, for folks to provide some sides and for folks to donate tickets to support the food bank. Come on out and have a great time. Visit Randy Cizek at the "Eat a Rib for Jesus" tent. Nothing could be better!

Mark Votaw

## **CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS**

**Mutual Ministry:** We have a secretary! A familiar face in a new place! Beginning in August, Vicki Givler has joined Zion's staff as Church Office Secretary. She will be in the office Monday through Friday from 9 to 3.

**Caring Ministry:** The Caring Ministry Team will work closely with Interim Pastor Robarge, Cathy Harvey of the Food Pantry; Kay Davis of the Prayer Chain, Darlene Milavickas of the Funeral Reception Meals, and Betty Tracy of the Comfort Givers. The September Food Pantry dates are the 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all for your past and future support.

**Resource Ministry:** Summer is a season when expenses are up and revenues are down. This year is no exception. Consequently, as of the end of July 2016, we are running a deficit of approximately \$3,900. Our Benevolent Giving

remains strong and healthy. We anticipate that with the resurgence of strong giving in the Fall months that we always see at Zion, coupled with additional sources of revenue, we will once again experience the budget surplus that has become a tradition at Zion in the past decade.

**Worship & Music Ministry:** We would like to welcome and thank Michael Calabris for coming on board with us as our new organist. We are still looking for a choir director. The committee is excited to meet with Pastor Robarge in September. We look forward to bringing new and exciting things to the congregation.

**Learning Ministry:** Please join us on Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, as we kick off our Sunday school year. There will be food, games, and crafts to make as we gather to celebrate the start of another exciting year! We will begin at 9:15 am in the gym. The following Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, we will begin our classes. We hope to see all of our youth!

### **ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS IN JULY 2016**

July Income	\$ 14,605.84	Income through July	\$116,468.57
July Expenses	\$ 18,623.31	Expenses through July	\$120,344.78
<b>July Deficit</b>	<b>\$ (4,017.47)</b>	<b>2016 YTD Deficit</b>	<b>(\$3,876.21)</b>
Food Pantry Fund	\$ 7,718.95		
Zion's Youth Fund	\$ 6,738.87		

***We thank you for your generous support!***

## **NEWS FROM THE ZION SUNDAY SCHOOL**



**Happy Birthday to:**

**Upcoming Events – Mark your calendars!**

**Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup>: Rally Day between Services**

**Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>: 2016-17 Sunday School Year for all ages starts at 9:15 am**

**Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>: Youth Missions Fall Craft Show 10 am – 4 pm**

### **Rally Day – Kick off to a Great Year**

This year's Rally Day will be Sunday September 4<sup>th</sup>. It is going to be a great event filled with fun and fellowship for all ages – PreK through High School! Rally Day will take place between services in the gym starting at 9:15 am. There will be food, games, crafts and fun for everyone. We will have lots of information to give the parents along with the necessary forms for Sunday School. We will see you at 9:15 on September 4<sup>th</sup> as we kick off the new Sunday School year!



### **New Sunday School Year**

We are always looking for new volunteers to help with teaching and leading our Sunday School classes and activities. It is always great to have new and fresh ideas for our program. If you are interested in being a teacher, a classroom helper or a substitute for any of our grades (Pre-K thru 12), please contact Debbie Fox at (330) 966-2433. It is such a rewarding and enjoyable opportunity to share God's love and His Word with Zion's Youth!

### **Pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

As we look forward to Rally Day and the start of the new Sunday School Year, we are planning a year of great new lessons and activities, along with our Christmas and Easter Programs. We will also have a Halloween activity, service projects at Thanksgiving and Christmas and other fun events this year! Our children's classes are for kids age 3 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. We are excited about these lessons and are looking forward to a year full of fun and learning – see you on September 11<sup>th</sup>!

### **Confirmation Class**

Confirmation classes will start on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 am in the Resource Center. This class is for all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. It is a very important time for this age group and we encourage regular attendance each Sunday for these two years before the kids are confirmed at the end of 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Renee Keith will lead our confirmation group and will continue to teach the Confirmation program called Colaborate. The kids will have great discussions and learn all about our Lutheran faith. Thank you to Renee for her continued support and commitment to our kids.

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### **High School**

Our High School class will also start Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 am. Laura Thompson and Debbie Fox will lead our High School Class. Our focus will be lessons in connection with service projects this year! We encourage all of our High School students to join us on our scheduled Sunday mornings and look forward to seeing them!

### **Fall “Oktoberfest” Youth Missions Craft Show News**

The Craft Show will be here before we know it, so we are starting on the youth’s projects this month. We will once again put together raffle baskets from the Sunday School classes. The children will receive the basket themes on Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at Rally Day, and we would like all items to be donated for the baskets by Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Tickets for these baskets will go on sale in October on Sunday mornings. All of our youth will be asked to donate items to any of the themed baskets. For each donated item, a child will receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win one of the baskets or one of the raffle items at the Craft Show. This year’s themed baskets are: *Ohio State Fan Basket, Cleveland Sports Fan Basket, Family Fun Basket, and Sweet Treats Basket*. We are so grateful for any and all donations to these baskets.

The youth of Zion will again host the bake sale at the Craft Show. They will be making some delicious items to sell at the table. We will also be asking for additional baked goods from our Zion family to help round out the bake sale table.

The youth will also be selling tickets for our delicious German Dinners which will be available during the Craft Show. There will be tickets available for pork or brat dinners for \$8.00 each. Please see any of the kids in our High School and Catechism Classes for tickets. They will also be selling tickets before and after services starting at the end of September. Tickets can be purchased or donated to help those who may not be able to buy their own dinner tickets.

The Craft Show will take place on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. This is a great event at Zion that helps our youth program, and we need lots of help to make it a success. There will be sign up sheets in Luther Hall in late September for volunteers, bake sale items and other food we will need. We encourage everyone to help out if possible. We really appreciate your support of Zion’s youth!

### **Acme Receipts**

It’s that time of year again! We are collecting Acme receipts again this year to help Zion’s Youth. This year Acme’s Community Cash Back Program has already started. It runs from August 11, 2016 through December 31, 2016. A collection jar is located in the Narthex. Please bring in your Acme receipts dated between August 11<sup>th</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup>. Thanks for your support!!!

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

This fall Jeff Hisson will continue with our study of *Sola Scriptura*. In past classes, we discussed the development of the Bible through the Septuagint, St. Jerome's Vulgate and Luther's translations of the Old and the New Testaments. Also, we examined the major covenants found in the Old Testament and how they lead us into the New Testament. We will now begin a survey/exploration/study of the 39 books of the Old Testament. We will do this through a more thematic approach as these books relate to the Law, the History, the Poetry, the Wisdom and the Major and Minor Prophets that make-up the Old Testament. Don't worry! We will review our past classes in preparation for this new examination of *Sola Scriptura*.

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

On Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 am, we *GATHER* again in the Resource Room for our new format of Gather Bible Studies. ALL women of Zion are invited and welcome. We gather for prayer, fellowship, and study of God's message for the day.

**September and November** will be a three session study on "When God's not fair: coming to terms with a merciful God." By Meghan Johnston Aelaboune.

**December** will be a devotional around the theme of Advent waiting: "What wants to be born in you?" By freelance writer Sonia C. Solomonson.

**January through May** – A Reformation Bible Study by Kathryn Kleinhans

## ZION'S COMFORT GIVERS

Summer break is over and it's time to get back to work. Sewing machines have been serviced, new darning needles and quilting pins purchased and just waiting to be used. Extra help will be necessary to complete comfort making, also preparation of items for the Lutheran World Relief shipment. We can keep you busy being a cut-up, a knotting expert, a seamstress, a packer, a yarn/material co-ordinator, or just share experiences and fellowship. Please come join us on the second and fourth Thursday in September, the 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. We offer coffee and cookies at break-time.

## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF FALL SHIPMENT

This year our focus will be on sending Personal Care (Health) Kits. Health kits are needed in countries with ongoing violence, natural disasters, conflicts where families must flee from their homes. In 2015, LWR collected and shared 140,557 kits. We were a small part in sharing 20 kits. Our goal this year will be 25 – 30 kits. We invite your help in collecting the items listed below by October 9, 2016. Place the items in the middle closet in Luther Hall. An inventory update will be given in the weekly news page. LWR shipment dates are October 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Items needed for kits are light weight bath towel (52" x 27") dark color recommended, bath size bars of soap (4-5 oz.) any brand in original wrapper, adult size toothbrush in original wrapper, sturdy comb (no picks or fine-toothed combs, and metal nail clipper w/attached file. Watch for more details in Zion's Sunday News Page and Newsletter.