

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR:

September arrived with some great support for Rally Day, our third annual congregational Pig Roast, and the second coming of – clang, click, splash, gurgle, gurgle, surface, and breathe – *Dunk the Pastor for Good!* What a great day we enjoyed to begin the new program year. The weather was great. The food was absolutely, out-of-this-world delicious. The fellowship really was divine, with our church family gathered to share our Lord's love and celebrate the joy of being God's people. Everybody pitched in – with Dale Jacobs taking the lead in preparing the pig for the feast that awaited us, Debbie Fox helping to organize all sorts of games for kids of all ages, Steve Ross putting the Men of Zion to work in preparing the grounds and the church for our celebration, the Pastor taking his seat at the Dunk Tank, and members purchasing the tickets that enabled us to raise over \$3,000 for new carpet in the Narthex, Main Hallway, and the Church Office, once the new HVAC system is up and running.

Speaking about the new Heating, Ventilation, and Air-Conditioning system, it looks like everything is in place to say that the job is just about done. Chris Thomas has been the general manager of this project, and our hardest worker, too. His involvement in this project has saved us thousands – perhaps tens of thousands – of dollars! He has been the central connection at every stage of progress and with each zone completed. Most folks, with a sense of history, associate St. Christopher with praying for safe travels. Our Saint Christopher has worked miracles keeping us safe and comfortable right here at home, in our church home! We can't thank Chris enough for all of the time and the full range of talents he has shared in helping to move us through this necessary, and, at times, overwhelming project. It is timely, too, to thank the Boiler Task Force for their leadership and perseverance in moving this project along: Jim Fidler, Laura Thompson, Charlie Danner, Mark Votaw, John Brokloff, Carol Rossbach, and, of course, Chris Thomas, with help from Lorin Beaber, Jim Lanzalotta, and John Long.

As long as we are thanking folks for their dedication and work in improving this building we call our church home, the Sanctuary Renovation project is reaching that point that calls for the expression of our gratitude and a celebration of thanksgiving. Brian Walters has been the leader, but he has had lots of help, beginning, of course, with the Property Renovation Task Force, which includes Darlene Milavickas and Marilyn Espe-Sherwindt. Lots of members and friends helped with the painting of the Sanctuary last year – Brian and Suzanne Walters, Marilyn and her husband, Darlene, Renee, Jayne and Adam Schrader, Chris Thomas, Bob and David Lancashire, Steve and Linda Ross, John Rhodes (with Mallory and Marcus), Gary and Shirley Horton, Laura (and Christopher) Thompson, Garry Leed, Mark Votaw, and Dave Palumbo.

That group of helpers grew with every new phase of improvement. Armand Lenarz became pivotal when we began work on the new lighting system to go with the new sound system that we installed last year. Armand's son, and his company, Lenarz Electric, worked tirelessly with Chris and Brian to solve the puzzle of upgrading the electric system that lights up our life in the Sanctuary. We're getting our complete list of names ready for the big celebration we are planning for *Christ the King Sunday on November 23rd*, when we will take the time to celebrate our 194th anniversary, and to say thank you to everyone who has been so instrumental in changing the face of this property we call home. We have been blessed with an incredible year of accomplishment and an incredible church family. Make sure that you mark the date November 23rd on your calendar, and plan to be here to join in the fun of a great day for Zion.

HOLY COMMUNION CLASS

Parents, take note. It is because Zion is a church that offers Holy Communion to all the baptized – no *ifs*, *ands*, or *buts* – that we ask parents to take seriously their commitment to help teach their children about the meaning of this wonderful Sacrament. “How can we do this?” you ask. Well, by participating in the *communion class for kids* we offer during the 10:30 a.m. worship service all four Sundays in October! Debbie Fox, Charlie Danner, and friends will again help lead our *Learning about Holy Communion* classes, which will be starting on Sunday, October 5.

“What are the classes like?” you ask. After last year’s classes, Mr. Danner had this to say: “We discussed the *Means of Grace* as the ways God shows his love to us through the Word and Sacraments. A part of this discussion raises the question of what is required of us to know we are ready to receive the body and blood. Our answer – simply a believing heart. This, then, opens the door to discussing a believing heart as a faithful heart, a loving heart, a forgiving heart, all while remembering that we have Jesus in our hearts to be with us.”

These classes really are a great experience, for the kids, the teachers, their helpers, and parents, too. We expect that all parents with children who are not yet confirmed will bring their children to these classes. There’s always something new to learn about the meaning of Holy Communion. Charlie Danner teaches our Sunday School children from 1st thru 6th grades. Mrs. Fox leads our Pre-K & Kindergarten children. We also have materials for parents with younger children whom they feel may not be ready for these classes. These materials suggest activities that can be done at home as a family. Feel free to contact Pastor with any questions you might have.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

One of the first books I read as a graduate student in theological ethics at Notre Dame was entitled *The Logic of Self-Involvement*, by Donald Evans. The author examined how the truth of some statements involved more than just assessing the accuracy of the statements, but required looking at the action of the speaker, as well. Statements like *the dog is black*, or *the sun is 93 million miles from earth* require that we know how to assess the accuracy of these statements in determining whether they are true or false. However, the truth of some statements – like *I love you*, or *I promise to love you* – require more than that we know what *love* means and who *you* refers to. It requires that we look at the action of the speaker to determine the truth of the statement. That is what Evans refers to as *the logic of self-involvement*.

Our Adult Sunday School class had a great discussion of prayer this month, as we began to appreciate the self-involving character of prayer. We were wondering whether and how prayer permeates our life as a congregation. The outward language is one thing – whether we pray aloud or silently, in church or at a meeting, with formal petitions or spontaneous language. But we also thought that what we do can be a prayer. In fact, we began to see that, while our prayers usually consist of words that are addressed to God, praying in truth requires an openness to allowing God’s will to shape our lives and direct our deeds. In others words, we began to appreciate the self-involving character of prayer.

It turned out to be an interesting discussion, like many of the discussions we’ve enjoyed as we have talked about leadership strategies for turning around churches like ours. Come and join us during Sunday School in Luther Hall. You’ll be glad you did, and so will we.

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

Carol Rossbach called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members in attendance were Jayne Schrader, Dave Palumbo, Jim Fidler, Mary Humbert, Steve Ross, Linda Lancashire, Dale Jacobs, Tina Beaber, and Pastor Sherwindt.

Our first order of business was to review the August Treasurer's Reports, which surprised with some good news about strong giving during the summer months. June, July, and August provided giving that amounted to a surplus for these three months of almost \$8,000 – actually, \$7,993.30! As a result, our running deficit stands at under \$1,000 as we head into the fourth quarter.

We then moved on to the main item on the agenda, discussing the Proposed Budget for 2009. The Proposed Budget anticipates that we will fill the openings in our support staff, which means that we plan on hiring a Church Office Secretary and a Choir Director. Zion's Fall Congregational Meeting, which is when we discuss and vote on the proposed budget, has been scheduled for Wednesday evening, October 29th, beginning with dinner in Memorial Hall at 6:15 p.m., followed by our meeting in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.

ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS FOR AUGUST

August Income	23,326.39
August Expenses	<u>20,490.89</u>
August Surplus	2,835.50
Income thru August	161,689.91
Surplus entering '08	+3,765.17
Expenses " August	<u>166,244.83</u>
Deficit thru August	(789.75)
2008 YTD (Deficit)	(789.75)
2007 YTD (Deficit)	(3,695.75)

We thank you for your generous support!

MORE FINANCIAL NEWS

Good news for the operating budget is not even half the story for enjoying what has, to date, been an exceptionally generous year in terms of financial giving at Zion. How can we not celebrate the response that flowed when we asked for your support of the Steve Dague Fund! Giving for that cause in 2008 has amounted to over \$27,000! And if this were not enough to establish 2008 as a record year for Zion's giving, members have also given close to \$35,000 in helping us to move forward with our new Heating, Ventilation, and Air-Conditioning system – which has been installed and is ready for use, in terms of both heating and cooling the church. And, as frosting on the cake, our fun at the Pig Roast with *Dunk the Pastor for Good* raised another \$3,000 for the new carpet we would like to see in the Narthex, the Church Office, and the Main Hallways! Add it up, and you'll find that our extra giving at Zion is truly a testimony to the extraordinary generosity that is vibrantly alive among us.

We still have some challenges to address as we head into the fourth quarter of the year. October visits us with the *Youth Missions Craft Show*, and the hundreds of German take-out dinners we will ask you to purchase and donate. November is our annual *Turkey Give-away*, as we invite you to help our Food Pantry as they do their best to get the families we serve in the holiday spirit. December is time for the *Advent Giving Tree*, when we ask our members and friends to donate Christmas gifts to honor a season that celebrates God's gift of the Christ Child for all the world.

So, thank you for all you've given, for the support you've offered, for the work you've done. Thanks for caring about the needs we see, the causes we pursue, the ministries we've organized, and the Lord that we serve.

CELEBRATING THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN IN THE ELCA -- 1

The NEOSWO Fall Retreat

On Saturday, September 6th, Joyce Gibeaut, Edna Smith, Betty Tracy and I attended a women's retreat sponsored by the Northeastern Ohio Synodical Women's Organization. The theme was *A Woman's Day Away to Rest and Renew My Soul*. The retreat was held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Ashland, Ohio, with approximately 206 women attending.

After a continental breakfast and welcome by Dawn Forbes, Trinity's Director of Women's and Children's Ministries, the morning consisted of a responsive litany led by Cathy Byers, President of NEOSWO, followed by morning devotions led by Pastors Bonnie Peltomaa, Dawn Donato, and Ginger Pfluger. There was a fun demonstration by Pastor Pfluger showing what stress feels like, and then one of the pastors led us in a calming meditation.

A special offering was received, in which \$1,416 was collected for the Ashland Christian Health Center, which is a volunteer clinic to care for and elevate the dignity of uninsured residents. The women brought gifts of food for the Shelby Lutheran Food Pantry. When all the food was counted and organized, 81 jars of peanut butter, 138 boxes of cereal, 32 boxes of crackers, 29 bags of sugar, and 155 cans of meat were collected!

Restful and renewal music was provided by the *Trinity Praise Team*, which consisted of ten members. All the members of the Praise Team were singers, and some also played guitars, bass, drums, and keyboard.

After an excellent buffet luncheon we watched a video of Louise Waller, an artist and sculptor for the Ashland Theological Seminary Prayer Garden. She told how the sculptures came to be, what they stood for, and how she created her sculpture.

After devotions and prayers and reports we toured the Prayer Garden and the grounds of the Seminary. Inside the Sandberg Leadership Center is a large interactive sculpture, *Jesus and Child*, of a scale that adults as well as children can sit in his lap or hold his hand. In the center of the grounds are two bronze statues by Max Greiner, Jr. *Fisher of Men* is about Christ's invitation to each of us to salvation and service. The second is of the moment when Peter allows Christ to wash his feet. One of the pastors was washing the feet of anyone who desired it. As I said, it was very interactive.

There are five statues in the Prayer Garden: an eagle, fawn, lion & lamb, donkey & calf, and sheep, each representing a scripture verse. Ronk Memorial Chapel was open for those wishing to rest and renew and reflect on the theme verses. It was a very relaxing and restful day. I was glad that I took the time to attend the retreat, and encourage all of our women to think about attending next year's retreat. The Women of Zion will keep you informed of the details as they are made available.

Your humble President,
Carol Rossbach

CELEBRATING THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN IN THE ELCA -- 2

Blanket Sunday on October 5

We hope that you have found some bargains on buying blankets. Please bring them to church with you for Blanket Sunday. We ought to have one colorful display covering our pews when we add your blankets to the quilts that Zion's Comfort Givers have been working on in Luther Hall throughout the year. It is always a sight to see!

Our blankets and comforters become a part of a larger shipment through which *Lutheran World Relief* delivers blankets, quilts, school kits and health kits to families all across the globe. In 2007, for example, Lutheran World Relief sent 452,870 quilts, 194,825 school kits, 114,300 health kits, 48,300 sewing kits, 105,800 layettes, and 73,059 pounds of soap to Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Georgia, Guatemala, India, Jordan, Kosovo, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Israel and the Palestinian Territories, Peru, Romania, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, Ukraine, and Zambia.

With your help Zion's part in last year's effort included 95 quilts, 43 blankets, 78 school kits and 45 health kits, filling 43 boxes, which weighed 601 pounds. Let's see if we can do even better this year with ***Blanket Sunday on October 5th***. Then, on ***Thursday, October 9th***, we will gather in Luther Hall at 9:30 a.m. to begin packing all of our items in boxes so that these boxes can be driven over to Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Seville on ***Saturday, October 11th***. Please join us if you are able to help.

Women's Bible Study on October 21

The monthly Bible study for the Women of Zion meets on the third *Tuesday, October 21*, when we will continue with session two of our three-month Bible study of the story of Ruth and Naomi. The theme of our lesson is *Beyond Loyalty*, as we focus on God's plan for security with our key verse being Ruth 2.12: "May the Lord reward you for your deeds, and may you have a full reward from the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge."

We have learned that the story of Ruth is more than a quaint love story between Ruth and Boaz. This month we pick up the story where Naomi and Ruth have returned to Naomi's home as a widow, without any means of support, more or less destitute. We will learn that the key to finding true security resides less in the wealth we accumulate for ourselves and more in the trust that we invest in the Lord. We invite all of Zion's women to join us on Tuesday, October 21, in Luther Hall. You will enjoy our fellowship, and we'll enjoy your company.

Lutheran Women's League Luncheon on October 13

You are invited to the Lutheran Women's League Fall Luncheon, which will be held in the Crystal Room at the Waterford on Monday, October 13th, beginning at 11:30 a.m. The menu includes savory stuffed pork chops, baked apples, fresh vegetables, with salad, rolls, dessert, and beverages. The cost is \$7.50, with musical entertainment offered by Alison Rae. To make reservations, please contact Betty Tracy by Thursday, October 9th. Donations of toothpaste and body lotion are invited for our Fall Project. The Waterford is located at 201 Holl Road NE.

GREAT NEWS FROM ZION'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Sunday, October 12:	Youth and Family Event at Maize Valley from 2 to 5 p.m.
Saturday, October 18:	Youth Missions “Oktoberfest” Craft Show 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Wednesday, October 29:	Zion’s Annual Youth Halloween Costume Party at 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, November 16:	Youth Thanksgiving Service Event after 10:30 a.m. Service
Sunday, November 23:	Youth Food Pantry Scavenger Hunt after 10:30 a.m. Service
Saturday, December 13:	Dress Rehearsal for Children’s Christmas Program at Noon
Sunday, December 14:	Annual Children’s Christmas Program at 10:30 a.m. Service

PRE-KINDERGARTEN THROUGH THE SIXTH GRADE

Our Sunday School year is off to a great start! The kids will be learning a variety of lessons about Old and New Testament stories this year. Sunday School begins at 9:15 a.m. each Sunday and ends at 10:15 a.m. These lessons are filled with important messages about God’s Word along with great crafts, games and snacks. Currently we have two classes, Pre-Kindergarten through 2nd Grade, which is led by Connie Riffle and Janet Slease, and 3rd through 6th Grade, which is led by Mary Humbert. We look forward to seeing our kids each Sunday, because we enjoy teaching them all about God’s love and God’s Word.

ZION’S COMMUNION CLASS BEGINS ON OCTOBER 5

Charlie Danner will be leading our Communion Class starting the first Sunday in October. This class will take place during the 10:30 a.m. Service on all four Sundays in October. Charlie’s class will be for our Sunday School children from 1st through 6th Grade. Debbie Fox will also have short sessions during this time for our Pre-K & Kindergarten children. There is also material for parents with younger children whom they feel may not be ready for these classes, which can be done at home as a family. Generally speaking, right after the children’s sermon, we head for the Resource Center, and then return for Holy Communion. This will be our routine on October 5, 12, 19, and 26. On November 2nd, *All Saints Sunday*, we will congratulate our children with certificates that thank them for participating.



CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION AND THE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS

Renee Schrader leads our Confirmation Class for Zion’s 7th and 8th graders. This class meets at 9:15 a.m. in the Resource Center each Sunday. Tina Beaver leads the High School Class, with help from Steve and Linda Ross. We meet in the Youth Room, and work on lessons that help to build a strong foundation for lives that are *growing in love and service by grace*.

MORE GREAT NEWS FOR ZION'S YOUTH

OCTOBER 12th YOUTH & FAMILY EVENT: THE MAIZE IN HARTVILLE

After a two great Youth & Family events in September – *Rally Day* and our *Bonfire and a Movie* – we have another great event for your calendar. We will be going to Maize Valley in Hartville on Sunday, October 12, leaving at 2:00 p.m. and returning at 5:00 p.m. The cost will be \$7.00 per person (ages 6 and older), and \$4.00 for children ages 2 through 5. This cost includes unlimited wagon rides, the corn maze, and the other children's activity areas. After we return to Zion, we will gather around a bonfire for a hot dog roast and a movie, with lots of smores to keep us comfy and satisfied. Let's face it, it will be another great family event. The kids will have a chance to make chocolate covered pretzels that evening, which we plan to sell at the Craft Show. Please join us for a great event! *Sign-up Sheets* are in the Church Office.

ZION'S FALL "OKTOBERFEST" YOUTH MISSIONS CRAFT SHOW

The Craft Show is fast approaching! Zion's Youth will once again have a table at this year's show. The kids are currently working on several projects during Sunday School with the help of Cindy Young, Tim Meister, and Mary Humbert. We look forward to the great items that our youth are creating to sell. You'll be nicely surprised by their contribution to the Craft Show.

We will also have great Raffle Baskets that will be donated by the Sunday School Classes. Raffle tickets for these baskets will go on sale Sunday, October 11th. The cost of tickets will be 3 for \$1, or 20 for \$5. The baskets will be raffled off the day of the Craft Show, October 18.

This year's Raffle Baskets are as follows: Miss Janet's & Miss Connie's Class (Pre-K through 2nd Grade) will create the *Holiday Fun Basket & Sweet Treats Basket*; Miss Mary's Class (3rd through 6th Grade) will create the *Boys' & Girls' Fun Baskets*; the Catechism and High School Classes will create the *Ultimate Ohio State Fan Basket* and the *Family Movie Night Basket*.

Our 5th Annual Youth Missions Craft Show will once again raise money to help with expenses for future mission trips and youth events. The youth will be selling tickets for German take-out dinners, which are \$8.00 each. These dinners are delicious, and a great value, too!

Our youth will be needed on October 18th to help with the Craft Show. We will need our youth to staff the youth table, help the other crafters unload, help in the concession area and bake sale table, and any other odds 'n ends that come up during the course of the day. There will be *Sign-up Sheets* in Luther Hall for all who can help! There will also be *Sign-up Sheets* for the congregation in Luther Hall for donating food items and bake sale items, for volunteering for set-up, and for helping during the Craft Show. Your support, as always, is greatly appreciated.

COLLECTING "ACME RECEIPTS" RESUMES

We are again collecting Acme Receipts to help raise funds for the youth. This year we will receive "cash back credit" for receipts dated **September 28, 2008 through February 21, 2009**. Be sure your receipt has the "Community Cash Back" amount at the bottom. Save your receipts and help us raise money for our youth! We have placed collection cans in Memorial Hall by the coffee and in the Church Office. Thank you in advance for your great support!

LUTHERAN ODDS 'N ENDS

Canton City Lutheran Churches: Our downtown Canton churches have proposed a covenant for working more closely together. It reads as follows: "Led by the Holy Spirit calling us together as the Body of Christ, we, as members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, will combine and share our human and physical resources in order to be more faithful stewards of God's grace. This will enable us to expand our efforts in service and outreach to all in downtown Canton, the neighborhoods we serve, and the world community, enhance our worship experience, and grow together in Christ's love." The four churches involved are Bethel, First, Martin Luther, and Trinity.

The Bishop's Fall Meeting: Bishop Eaton visits our conference on Thursday, October 30th, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, for an annual meeting that begins with dinner at 5:30 p.m., continuing on afterwards with a program that lifts up the theme *Sunday Mornings Should Be Excellent*. This workshop encompasses excellence in worship, excellence in hospitality, and excellence in property care. The evening will conclude by 8:00 p.m. Reservations are required. If you would like to attend, please see Pastor Sherwindt with your interest.

Candle-lighting for Mental Illness: Each year in October, many Lutheran congregations reflect on the struggles of those with mental illness. We pray of those who struggle and the families that support them. October is set aside as Disability Awareness Month; the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) recommends setting aside a week early in October as Mental Illness Awareness Week, which for Zion will culminate with worship on Sunday, October 12th.

THANK YOU TO ZION

Dear Members of Zion Lutheran Church,

To those who prayed, to those who called to inquire about Cora, to those who visited, to those who brought gifts, to those who provided comfort at Cora's viewing and funeral, we thank you.

To Ruth Elsass, for faithfully delivering sermon DVDs and tomatoes to the house, we thank you.

To Edna Smith and Betty Tracy, for doing a wonderful job organizing a luncheon for our family and guests, we thank you.

To all who provided food, and who helped to set up, serve, and clean up, we thank you.

To Pastor, for visiting Cora, for preparing an inspiring service incorporating all of Cora's wishes and requests, for delivering a heart-warming tribute to Cora, for helping with her committal at Forest Hills, we thank you.

To all the behind-the-scenes folks who helped prepare the church, and who aided in Cora's service, we thank you.

To Dale Jacobs, for raising us up on eagle's wings through your heart-warming solo, and to Margaret Reichenbach, for playing all of Cora's favorite hymns, we thank you.

To the ladies who provided last-minute child-care in the Nursery, we thank you.

To Charlie Danner, for taking such good care of Zola Como, when she fell on the front step and as she was admitted to the hospital, we thank you. (Please pray for her as she recovers from shoulder surgery.)

Finally, to all the kind and caring members of Zion who continue to pray for our family, we thank you.

*In Christian love,
Nick Lanzalotta,
Jan Deibel,
Ron & Eve Deibel*

THANK YOU'S AND MORE

Dear friends at Zion,

I want to thank you for the prayers, the cards, and the Chancel flowers delivered by way of a nice visit with Evelyn and Larry Moore. I also want to thank Pastor for his cheerful visits and prayers on my behalf.

*The peace of the Lord be with you all,
Shirl Hertler*

A Round of Thank You's to Steve Ross and his able crew of volunteers, which included Mark Votaw, Ben and Matt Mathie, his daughter Nicki, and her friend Alex. They weren't as large as our group of twenty that helped to paint a Habitat Home on High Av. SW in Canton earlier in the summer, but they got just as much done, applying a couple coats of paint for a Habitat Home in Minerva on Saturday, September 27th. Thanks to all.

THANK YOU TO ZION

Dear Christian Partners,

Thank you for your recent donation to *Habitat for Humanity of Greater Stark & Carroll Counties* from your Vacation Bible School offerings. Your gift is very timely. As you know, September marks the beginning of another school year for area children. Many are filled with excitement and anticipation as they reunite with friends to learn and achieve.

For many low-income families, however, it marks the start of another year of frustration and uncertainty. Faced with issues of affordability and inadequate housing, families living at or below the poverty line sometimes experience a transient life. It is not unusual for those in need to move several times throughout the year, causing lack of continuity in the education of children.

Through your kindness and generosity to *Habitat for Humanity*, area families now can find hope and stability through decent and affordable housing. Through a twenty-year, NO interest mortgage, they are able to establish roots and remain in the same school, with the same teachers throughout the year. Their opportunity to succeed scholastically is now greatly improved.

Thank you for your partnership. Together, we work for the day when all people everywhere may know the safety and security of decent and permanent shelter. May you continue to be blessed with prosperity and peace.

*Sincerely,
Beth Lechner,
Executive Director*

(As a part of our Vacation Bible School program this year, we raised enough money through offerings, raffles, and donations to contribute \$500.00 to *Habitat for Humanity of Greater Stark & Carroll Counties*.)

SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT FROM ZION'S FOOD PANTRY

While on vacation in September we were eating at our favorite eatery, when in strolled a dirty and smelly homeless man. I spotted him immediately as he ducked into the establishment's restroom. As luck would have it, or maybe it was just our non-threatening look and demeanor, this man took a seat in the booth directly behind ours. Within moments he was told by the waitress in no uncertain terms to vacate the premises. He quietly removed himself from the restaurant and from the normalcy of our lives. I have to admit, however, that my delectable, cheese sticks were now becoming less appealing.

As our waitress proceeded to wipe off "the offender's" table, and then *Febrezed* his homeless odor away, as you would expect, I inquired as to the location of the nearest homeless shelter. The waitress gave me the location of the shelter, but added, with an attitude, that there were no bars close to the shelter. My heart grew sad for the man's fate. His addiction had changed the course of his life. Whether it was the circumstances of his life or of his own choosing, he is still one of God's children. Did he choose his addiction? Only he knows. But I am willing to bet that he didn't choose to go to bed hungry.

Going to bed hungry, or celebrating a traditional holiday with a chicken instead of a turkey, does not bode well with the members of Zion's Food Pantry Crew. The homeless man from the restaurant probably will not be enjoying a Thanksgiving meal on November 27th, but it is our collective hope that our pantry clients will. As in prior years we have provided all of our pantry clients with a turkey and all the fixings to complete a holiday meal. And if putting together **forty-five** complete meals isn't enough, we will also be serving **thirty-two** Siffrin group homes! Just like clock work, the arrival of August begins the worrying about our November goal. As we have learned, God will provide, with a little help from Zion's family.

Zion's Food Pantry Crew is asking for **seventy-two 12-pound turkeys**. If you would rather make a monetary donation, we would be glad to do the shopping for you. We need your donations by the first Tuesday in November, which is November 10th. Once again, we are happy to say that *New Neighbors Club of North Canton* will be donating pumpkin pies, and *Curves* of Easton and Market will donate all the sacks of potatoes.

If you have an itching to bake, we could always use more pumpkin pies. Just bake to your heart's content. You can place your pies in our freezers here at the church, or keep them in your freezer at home. Just make sure that you bring them on November 11th, when they then will be placed in our freezers so that we can begin to make preparations for our annual *Thanksgiving Give-away* on Tuesday, November 25th.

Through God all things are possible. That's not just our motto. It's been our experience.

God bless you, and thanks,
Shirley Cavender and the Pantry Crew

