

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR:

It is with deep gratitude that I greet you following summer months that have shown Zion at our very best. July was an astounding month for ministry, as Vacation Bible School served as the cornerstone of a church committed to growing in love and service by grace. In terms of overall participation, congregational involvement, neighborhood outreach, and community service, we clicked on all cylinders. What is more, we were humming in many areas of our life together. We enjoyed the return of Suzanne Walters as our Praise Team leader. We were also blessed with a beautiful return on our investment in the landscaping beds surrounding the church – the colorful flowers, actively weeded, regularly watered: it all looks great! We also found ourselves celebrating an unlikely surplus for a four-Sunday summer month. Sure, \$31.32 doesn't sound like much; but it capped off a wonderfully active, successful, and faithful month.

We have followed up one good month with another. August has kept the momentum going. The Hall-of-Fame Weekend brought the return of colorful hot-air balloons, a wonderful week of celebration for Stark County, and prayers for the rejuvenation that comes through the rest and relaxation of summer. Within weeks, we were finalizing our plans for the Main Street Festival, setting up a booth, passing out scratch pads and coloring books, along with bracelets, some wash-away tattoos, brochures about Zion, and pamphlets about Luther and Lutheranism. It was another great weekend for Zion and North Canton. Now we look ahead to our *End-of-the-Summer Party*. We've got lots to celebrate, and our hope is that an afternoon celebration on the Sunday of Labor Day Weekend will offer precisely what we need to add the punctuation of an exclamation point to a wonderful summer of ministry and fun at Zion.

The first thing that we want to say about this *End-of-the-Summer Party* is that there will be great food. The Men of Zion have taken the lead in making sure that we'll have plenty of grills fired up and ready to create some of the finest selections of great tasting ribs, burgers, brats, dogs, and a few surprises that you won't want to miss. Fresh sweet corn, fabulous salads, sides, desserts, drinks: it's all going to be here at Zion on Sunday, September 6th. Good food that tastes great, and a feast that contributes to a good cause: this is the second thing we want to say about our *End-of-the-Summer Party*. It's a fundraiser for the Food Pantry! Every \$10 ticket – used or donated – buys seventy pounds of food from the Akron-Canton Food Bank. This is very good news; and what is even better news, we're well on our way to raising almost \$1,500.00 for the Food Pantry, which translates into seven thousand pounds of food, or more!

Of course, there's a whole lot more going on in September than this *End-of-the-Summer Party*! We've got Rally Day on the calendar for Sunday, September 13th. We're returning to the idea of featuring a Mission Fair between the services in Luther Hall, along with games for the kids, and, of course, food for all. We've been working on a new 2009 Telephone Directory, and we'll have some on display for final editing at the Mission Fair. We'll be able to distribute our new telephone directories the following week. That following week, September 20th, we celebrate the return of Sunday School classes for all ages. After a long summer break, the Sunday School Staff is ready to go as we look forward to a great 2009-2010 Sunday School year. Plan to join us for a September designed to deliver great food, great fun, and great fellowship for all.

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

Due to vacation plans, we had to schedule our August meeting for the *first Monday* of the month. Present were Jim Fidler, Susan Heyard, Jayne Schrader, Dave Palumbo, Tina Beaver, Mark Votaw, Cathy Harvey, and Pastor Sherwindt. Chris Thomas, Mary Humbert, Dale Jacobs, Linda Lancashire, and Steve Ross were unable to attend. Our primary aim for the evening was to lay out the time-line for presenting the 2010 Proposed Budget Guidelines at our October Congregational Meeting, and to listen to the good news our Treasurer would provide.

Dave Palumbo did not disappoint. In an unusual show of summer stewardship, we turned July, with its four Sundays, into a break even month, with income exceeding expenses by \$31.32! Of greatest interest to all was the significant reduction in utility bills we have seen since installing the new HV/AC system. It is still too soon to draw substantial conclusions, but replacing our 49-year-old boiler seems to be serving us well, with utility bills running \$4,243.52 lower year-to-date. Otherwise, there have been no real surprises in terms of expenses or income, except to say that Zion's generosity has been very evident in supporting the budget, along with all our special fundraisers that invite your contributions: the HV/AC system, the Food Pantry, new plans for landscaping, as well as the usual litany of local needs we try to meet during the course of the year.

Zion's Financial Facts for July show that we are running a year-to-date budget deficit of \$4,581.66. However, our cumulative carry-over surplus from 2008 leaves us with a year-to-date Cash Surplus of \$3,028.29, which is \$7,178.54 better than where we stood at this time in 2008 – and that is good news!

MORE FINANCIAL FACTS

The HV/AC Fund: We continue to make progress in receiving gifts that have added up to \$53,722.50! This has enabled us to remain current with expenses that have come due with our payment for the HV/AC system, while also allowing leeway for tending to some projects that still need our attention – putting the finishing touches on the duct work that runs through the Resource Center, redesigning covers for the rooftop units, and tending to maintenance plans for our new system. We are grateful for the contributions we've received and for all the pledges that are being honored. Our deepest thanks to all!

We haven't forgotten our desire to replace the carpet in the Main Hallways, the Narthex, and even Luther Hall. We have raised \$3,280 for this **New Carpet Fund**; but that is still far short of what we'll need to pursue this project, even in stages; but it won't be long before we decide to move forward with this much needed finishing touch to our renovations.

We continue to invite contributions to the **Steve Dague Fund**, which at present has a balance of \$4,840.61 for needs that arise.

ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS FOR JULY

July Income	17,633.00
July Expenses	<u>17,601.68</u>
July Surplus	31.32
Income through July	129,902.76
Expenses through July	<u>134,484.42</u>
Deficit through July	(4,581.66)
Carry-over 2008 Surplus	<u>+7,609.95</u>
2009 YTD Cash Surplus	3,028.29
2008 YTD (Cash Deficit)	(4,150.25)

We thank you for your generous support!

MAIN STREET FESTIVAL

North Canton's 13th Annual *MAIN STREET FESTIVAL* is now in the history books as another great success. The community of North Canton, the City Council, and the Chamber of Commerce: all can be proud of how well the weekend went. Our tent was positioned right in front of the new Memorial Garden at Zion United Church of Christ.

We provided hospitality teams from Saturday morning at 10 a.m. all day long until 8 p.m., and again on Sunday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. We extend our thanks to all of our volunteers, including Steve, Linda, and Nicki Ross, Jim Dansizen, Howard Dansizen, Mark Votaw and Lorraine Weinman, Nick Lanzalotta, Bob and Linda Lancashire, Jayne Schrader, Renee Schrader, Charlie Danner, Darla Dague, her two boys, Eric and Justin, and her mother, Betty Lenz, Susan Heyard, Evelyn Moore, Dean Yoder, Dan and Linda Wilson, Craig Kuehnert, Brian and Kevin Walters, and last, but not least, Pastor Sherwindt.

We also want to thank all of our members and friends who stopped by our tent to lift our spirits and keep us company during the two-day festival. We were nicely surprised when Rick and Connie Riffle stopped by for a visit! The weather was great, a good number of folks crowded the streets, and we had a great time witnessing for Zion. We passed out Zion pads, brochures, coloring books, newsletters, and little booklets describing who Lutherans are and what Martin Luther did. It was fun and informative at the same time. We extend our thanks to all: our members who supported the effort, the Witness Team who planned it, and our long-distance Witness Ministry Elder, Steve Ross, for his hard work and light-hearted manner.

THE MEN OF ZION

Zion's End-of-the-Summer Party is on for Sunday, September 6th. This will take the place of previous pig roasts we've hosted; but the promise of great food remains number one in our planning a great event that will be lots of fun for all. This year we have added special music to the mix, with **Zach** – voted in June by the readers of *Akron Life & Leisure Magazine* as THE BEST LOCAL BAND – booked to perform here at Zion on Sunday afternoon, September 6th. Y'all come now.

In the meantime, the Men of Zion have some finishing touches to plan at our monthly *Men's Meeting*, which is set for the first Wednesday of the month, **September 2nd**. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. for dinner in Luther Hall. You're invited. We'll keep the coffee hot and a seat warm. Chris Thomas has agreed to "keep the envelope" and oversee our Men of Zion activities, as Steve Ross adjusts to life on the road between North Canton and Poughkeepsie. So, contact Chris with any questions.

LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION in the Canton Massillon Conference invite you to come to their **Annual Steak Fry/Chicken Dinner**, on Saturday, September 12th, at the Pavilion in Paris, beginning at 6:00 p.m. (The Pavilion is at the corner of Paris Av. and SR 172.) Everyone is invited to enjoy a delicious steak or chicken dinner with all the fixin's for just \$15 per person. All proceeds will be matched by Thrivent, and then used to support future ministry activities. Contact Bernie Bresson (330-704-3449, or LMM6BRES@aol.com), or Jamie Savarin (330-323-4212, or jsavarin@aol.com) with questions, interest, or an inkling to say hi!

THE WOMEN OF ZION

The monthly Bible study for the Women of Zion meets on the third **Tuesday, September 15**, when we will start our nine-month Bible study of St. Paul's Letter to the Romans, *To God's Beloved*. Sarah Henrich, Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, is the author of this Bible study. She has written extensively in designing Bible studies for the ELCA through Augsburg Fortress, including *Great Personalities in the New Testament* and *See God's Grace in Action*.

Session 1 is entitled *Be Mutually Encouraged*. Paul opens his exhortation with a tell-tale greeting: *I am not ashamed of the gospel; for it is the power of God for salvation for everyone who has faith.* (1:16). From there, it gets better, and bolder, called by many the best organized and most exhaustive account of what Paul believed and taught. The prayer with which this Bible study begins gets the sentiment and challenge exactly right:

“Gracious God, you call your people together that we may deepen our faith in you and fervent love toward one another by studying your Word. Give us ears to hear these ancient words from St. Paul to believers in Rome. Open our hearts and minds with your Holy Spirit that his words may strengthen our faith and help to shape our daily lives. Give us patience and good humor with one another and with our brother Paul, the more fully to appreciate the depth and power of your gift to us in Christ Jesus, in whose name we pray.”

We invite all of Zion's women to join us on **Tuesday, September 15, in Luther Hall**. You will enjoy the fellowship, and we'll enjoy the company. Also, that same day, the **Chancel Guild** has scheduled an evening meeting to work on polishing the silver and cleaning the Chancel. That's **September 15 at 6:30 p.m.**

WOMEN'S FALL CLUSTER

The Women of Zion will host the Canton-Massillon Cluster of the **Northeastern Ohio Synod Women's Organization** – known as **NEOSWO** for short! – to hold their Fall Fellowship here at Zion. This gathering is set for the morning of **Saturday, September 19**, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The theme is **UNITED BY THE SPIRIT**. Registration occurs from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. The program will feature a presentation by inspirational speaker Shirley Griffin, *Mary & Martha's Aprons*.

The offering received during the worship service at this Fall Cluster Fellowship will be divided between NEOSWO and the Project Comfort Fund, which pays for the shipping of Lutheran World Relief supplies wherever they are needed. The Cluster Board also asks that women from the conference remember that there is an urgent need by Lutheran World Relief for Health Kits. Fortunately, Zion has been busy making these kits, and will have plenty on hand.

A minimal fee of \$5.⁰⁰ will cover registration and our brunch. We ask that women register by Tuesday, September 15. Please see Betty Tracy with your interest, questions, and, most of all, with your desire to register. Come and join the Women of the Church for good food, great fellowship, and lots of inspiration.

The Women of Zion thank you in advance for your support in their drive to provide Lutheran World Relief with more Health Kits and School Kits this year. Our **HEALTH KITS** need hand towels, wash cloths, bars of soap, and toothbrushes. Our **SCHOOL KITS** still need blunt scissors, crayons (box of 8), and colored construction paper (9 by 12 inch). Any assistance will be very much appreciated by the Women of Zion, Lutheran World Relief, and children around the world.

GREAT NEWS FROM ZION'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- Sunday, September 6th:** Zion's *End-of-the-Summer* Party: A Food Pantry Fundraiser!
Sunday, September 13: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL scheduled for our Rally Day Festivities
Sunday, September 20: The 2009-2010 Sunday School Year begins today at 9:15 a.m.
Saturday, October 17: 2009 Youth Missions Fall Craft Show, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

RALLY DAY AND OUR MISSION FAIR

Rally Day will be Sunday September 13. This is going to be a great event filled with fun and fellowship! Rally Day will take place between services this year and begin at 9:15 a.m. There will be carnival games, relay races, refreshments and more for the kids. There will also be a Mission Fair going on in Luther Hall. So, along with lifting up Zion's many ministries, we will have lots of information to give our parents, along with all necessary forms for Sunday School. We'll see you in September as we kick off the new Sunday School year! By the way, we are calling all of Zion's older youth to help out with this event, along with anyone else who might be interested. We will need helpers to lead our games and activities. We will set up at 8:30 a.m. and start our activities at 9:15 a.m. Any help you can offer will be greatly appreciated.

ZION'S NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR

We are always looking for volunteers to help with teaching and leading our Sunday School classes, all the way from Pre-Kindergarten through the High School class. If you are interested in being a teacher, a classroom helper, or a substitute for these positions, please contact Debbie Fox at 330-966-2433. No doubt about it! This is such a rewarding and enjoyable opportunity to share God's love and His Word with Zion's Youth that you will be glad that you made that call!

PRE-K THROUGH THE SIXTH GRADE

We are looking forward to Rally Day and the start of the new Sunday School Year! We have a year filled with great lessons and lots of activities planned, along with our Christmas and Easter Programs. We will also have our traditional Halloween Party, service projects at Thanksgiving and Christmas, along with other fun events this year! Our children's classes begin for kids three years of age and run all the way through 6th grade. This year's teachers include Connie Riffle, Janet Slease, Mary Humbert, Vicki Givler, and Corlene Coulter. We will be teaching from an ELCA curriculum this year called *Spark*, which allows our children to learn Bible stories through fun activities that encourage creativity and imagination. We are looking forward to a year full of fun and learning. See you on September 20!

MORE GREAT NEWS FOR ZION'S YOUTH

CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION AND THE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS

Our Confirmation class will start again on Sunday, September 20, at 9:15 a.m. in the Resource Center. This class will include 6th, 7th and 8th graders this year. Renee Schrader will again lead our Confirmation program. We will be studying the *Hear We Stand* Confirmation program. We've got a good class, a fabulous instructor, and we're looking forward to another great year.

Our High School class will also start Sunday, September 20, at 9:15 am. Tina Beaber will again lead this class. The class will be studying the book *Do Hard Things*, which was written by twin teens, Alex and Brett Harris, who chose to have high values and exceed teenage expectations to glorify God. Our High Schoolers will also explore opportunities for service work throughout the year. We are very grateful for the time and dedication Tina commits to our Sunday School program, and we encourage all of our High Schoolers to join us each Sunday morning for an important and fun life experience.

FALL OKTOBERFEST YOUTH MISSIONS CRAFT SHOWS NEWS

The Craft Show will be here before we know it, so we are planning to start working on the youth's projects this month. We will again put together Raffle Baskets from each of the Sunday School classes. We will assign each class their theme on Sunday, September 13, during Rally Day festivities. We would like all items to be donated for these baskets here at the church by Sunday, September 27. Tickets for these Raffle Baskets will go on sale in October. This year the youth of Zion will again host the bake sale. Their project this year will return to something we've had great success with, making chocolate-covered pretzels, chocolate-covered oreos, no-bake cookies, puppy chow, and much more. We will also be asking for additional baked goods from our Zion family to help round out the bake sale table.

Just in case you were wondering, our *Sixth Annual Craft Show* will take place on Saturday, October 17th, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Connie Frank is overseeing this year's organization of our Craft Show. This has become a great event at Zion that helps our youth program, and we need lots of help to make it a success: crafters, folks for set-up and clean-up, kitchen crews, and don't forget the push to buy and donate German dinners! This year's Craft Show is already shaping up to be larger than anything we've done in prior years. There will be sign up sheets in Luther Hall in late September for volunteers, bake sale items, and other foods we will need. We encourage everyone to help out if possible. We really appreciate your support of Zion's youth!

YOUTH SPOTLIGHT PAGES ARE BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Please help your children fill out a *Youth Spotlight Form*, which you will find in the Church Office, through Debbie Fox, and everywhere on Rally Day! We would like forms for all of Zion's children, ages one through eighteen. The truth is that our Zion church family really looks forward to reading and learning about our amazing youth! Please return completed forms to Debbie Fox by Sunday, September 20, or as soon as possible. It's a big part of what we do, and we like including them in *The Zion Herald*.

Members in the Spotlight

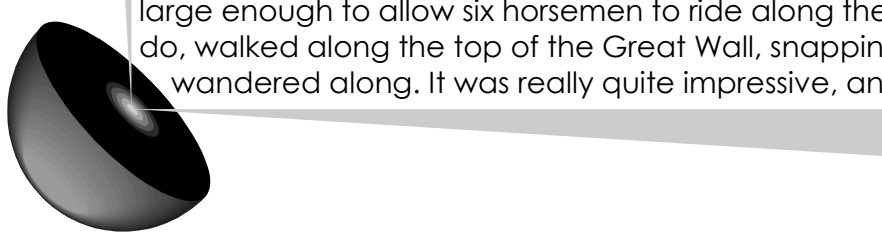


Austin Sherwindt – Upon graduating from Northeastern University in Boston, Austin took a job with a company called Hercules Technology Growth Capital. Hercules helped Austin turn his recent vacation into a business mission trip to Morelia, Mexico, where he participated in a work camp arranged by the Institute of Technology in Morelia, Impulsa (a partner of the Junior Achievers program), and Viva Mexico (a non-profit focused on youth development and cross-cultural exchanges). Morelia is the capital of the western state of Michoacán, around 150 miles west of Mexico City. While these business mission trips typically attract a dozen or so foreigners each year, due to the health concerns of the swine flu and the recent turmoil between the government and drug cartels, only three cross-cultural volunteers were a part of this year's edition.

The purpose of the work-camp was to travel to surrounding towns and work with local youth on such concepts as economics, the role of government, and the options that await those that continue their educational advancement. Austin worked alongside fifteen undergraduates from the Institute of Technology and a handful of representatives from Impulsa. He was paired with two undergrads in teaching second-grade students from San Miguel del Monte, Teremendo, and Capula, with one week spent in each community getting to know the children and teaching lessons on local communities, manufacturing, taxes, and privatization. Despite their close proximity to the state's capital, these communities were very poor; and despite the language barriers, it was deeply gratifying to report that lots was learned by students and volunteers alike.

Brian Kay – For years, many members who lived in North Canton walked to work to the Hoover Company. Those days are long gone. Today most folks drive to work, and many drive out of North Canton north to Summit County and even Cuyahoga County. Brian is a member who has made the drive north to Strongsville daily; but this past month, his job took him halfway across the globe to China! "In mid- August I spent over two weeks in China traveling on business from Hong Kong to Beijing. The last part of my trip was spent in Beijing, where I was able to visit several great wonders of the ancient world – the Great Wall of China and the Forbidden City.

"On a Sunday morning we hired a driver to take our party to the Great Wall, which is not far from Beijing, about 75 miles north. The wall was started in 221 B.C., and was added to up until the 17th century. It stretches for almost 2,500 miles. Although the Great Wall was built to prevent attacks from the north, the Manchus managed to invade China. The mid-summer landscape was green, rocky, and very hot: 105° and about 70% humidity. You have to walk past an endless number of souvenir shops to get to the Great Wall, and you will meet hundreds of other tourists from all over the world and hear many different languages while walking on the wall. Although I knew the Great Wall was large, I don't think I realized just how wide it is until I actually walked along it. The Great Wall where I was is about 26 feet high and 23 feet wide at its base, large enough to allow six horsemen to ride along the wall. I did what most other tourists do, walked along the top of the Great Wall, snapping some great photographs as I wandered along. It was really quite impressive, and a memorable Sunday morning."



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

We have spent the summer with *Proverbs*, measuring the difference between *God's Standard and the Gold Standard*. Jim Fidler, Charlie Danner, Blair Woodside, and Carol Rossbach have taken the lead in leading us through our introduction to Old Testament Wisdom literature. We have become wise beyond our years, which has been quite a challenge, and we have heard lots of good jokes, too! Why not plan to join us?

We'll be expecting a few changes as we head into September. First of all, has anyone been following the decisions on human sexuality and gender identity at this year's Churchwide Assembly? Well, we'll be discussing them during Sunday School on the first Sundays of the month, beginning with September 6. The second Sunday of September is Rally Day, which means that we'll be having a Mission Fair in Luther Hall. On the third Sunday, we will begin a monthly focus on membership, with our first session focusing on what makes for a healthy congregation. On the fourth Sunday, look for the earthly Jesus to join us, as Pastor Sherwindt tries to introduce us to the distinction between the historical Jesus and the Christ of faith. Here's the schedule:

September 6: Human Sexuality & the ELCA

September 13: Rally Day & Mission Fair

September 20: Membership & Good Health

September 27: Meeting the Historical Jesus

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There's a class for you!

COMMUNION FOR KIDS

Zion is a church that offers Holy Communion to all the baptized, no *ifs*, *ands*, or *buts*. As a result, we have the responsibility to help our parents teach their children about its meaning as the weekly blessing through which God gives Himself to us completely in, with, and under the bread and wine of this wonderful Sacrament. We are an inclusive people when it comes to extending Jesus' invitation to *come to the table*, and we trust that God is able to accomplish the aims of His grace in fulfilling the promises made in Baptism.

We are saved by grace through faith, and not by works. Confirmation doesn't earn us a place at the table. It helps us understand why the gifts God offers are already ours. The reality of a loving community sharing God's grace and living God's love is what enables our minds to grasp the mysteries of salvation, whether we're talking about the divine made human in Jesus, bread and wine becoming Christ's body and blood in communion, or mere mortals receiving the gift of eternal life.

God's grace comes first, always, enabling us gradually to grasp and understand what God has given us and how much God loves us. These are some of the simple truths of our Christian faith that Debbie Fox and Charlie Danner will be sharing with our kids as they lead our *Learning about Holy Communion* classes, which will be starting on Sunday, September 27. This class takes place during the 10:30 a.m. service, and will meet through October. Mr. Danner teaches our Sunday School children from 1st thru 5th grades. Mrs. Fox leads our Pre-K & Kindergarten children.

We also have materials for parents whose children may not be ready for these classes. Feel free to contact Pastor Sherwindt with any questions you might have about this.

IN CASE YOU THOUGHT SUNDAY SCHOOL WAS JUST FOR KIDS

The Rev. Karen Bockelman, a retired pastor currently serving part time as executive assistant to the Secretary of the ELCA., presently lives in Duluth, Minnesota, and recalled these thoughts as she reflected on how Lutherans approach Christian Education.

“What comes to your mind when you hear the word *Bible*? Do you remember learning Bible stories in Sunday school? Memorizing Bible verses? Family devotions? The *Lutheran Women Today* Bible studies?”

“Maybe you’re new to this Bible stuff and it isn’t part of your memory bank at all. Or maybe what you picture is a beautiful, but seldom opened coffee-table Bible. Perhaps you associate the Bible with old-fashioned language, outdated moral codes, and strange prophecies. Does the idea of reading the Bible make you think about long-ago people and events with no relevance to today? Does the idea of studying the Bible make you worry about losing your faith?”

“On the drive to church one Sunday, our Pastor’s young daughter announced she would rather come to the adult forum with her Dad than go to Sunday School.

“That would be fine, sweetie,” her Dad said.

“What are you going to talk about?” she wanted to know.

“We’re going to talk about the Bible,” he answered.

“You mean grownups talk about the Bible in their Sunday school, too?” she asked.

“Yes, we do.”

“But I suppose you talk about serious Bible stories, not the fun ones like we do.”

“Well, yes, we talk about serious stories, but we also talk about some of the same stories you learn in Sunday school. Even grownups need to hear those stories over and over again.”

“This young girl already sensed that grownups might look at the Bible differently than kids do. Where we are in our life’s journey can make a difference not only in what we are drawn to reading, but also in our understanding of what we read. A developmental psychologist has pointed out that fifth-graders, for example, tend to be concrete and detail-oriented. So when they read or hear the Exodus story they might wonder, ‘Didn’t even one Hebrew get one drop of water on them?’

“Can the Exodus story be meaningful for fifth-graders? Absolutely. Is there more to the story than crossing the Red Sea on dry ground? Just as absolutely.

“When our Bible learning stops with our Sunday school days or gets stuck at that level, we don’t have a chance to grow in faith. We think we know what the Bible says because we once learned the story, and we let that early sense of adventure and discovery be overshadowed by the indifference and even contempt that can grow out of familiarity.”

REMEMBERING 9-11

In has been eight years since the twin towers fell on 9-11-01, but still memories burn with resolve as we remember the events that seared our minds with images that will never be forgotten.

We remember the courage of stockbrokers, office workers, maintenance workers, bystanders, window-washers and all the others who worked together so valiantly to help one another.

We remember the selfless service of firefighters who rushed upstairs as most everyone else was racing out, and police officers who stood to protect and defend the people and performed their duties until the towers came crashing down on top of them.

We remember the tragic loss of life as thousands of workers, women and men, old and young, single and married, American-born and those born in countries around the world did not escape the towers that day.

We remember the millions of Americans who gave so generously of their life and labor to endow funds to help the survivors and their families recover from their losses, and we are grateful for their generosity.

Gracious Lord, keep us mindful of those who are struggling still. Calm our fears. Guide us as we struggle to live in this rapidly changing world, and help us remain loving, kind, and always open to your presence in our lives, in our neighbors, and in the world around us; through Christ our Lord. Amen

While Zion will not hold services on Friday, September 11, rest assured that the church will be open, and that on Sunday, September 13, we will mark the moment as we pray for God's blessings for our nation and the world.

SEPTEMBER 12, TOO!

On September 12 at 8:00 a.m. out of Akron-Canton Airport, *Honor Flight CAK* will pay tribute to World War II veterans by flying them to the Washington, D.C., to see the World War II Memorial, along with five other memorials. It turns out that one of our own, Larry Moore, whose ninety-first birthday we recently celebrated, will be among those veterans honored.

After this flight, *Honor Flight CAK* will have transported more than five hundred WWII veterans to Washington to see the memorial. The September 12 flight will have one-hundred-and-fifteen WWII veterans from more than forty Ohio towns. Additionally, sixty-seven Honor Flight Guardians – who donate their time and expenses – will join their distinguished heroes by providing escort services and aid throughout the one-day excursion. Susan Heyard will serve as one such guardian, escorting her Dad throughout a day that will begin at 5:30 a.m., arriving back at CAK at 8:15 p.m.

A \$40,000 grant from the Timken Foundation of Canton is funding the charter flight with US Airways on September 12. Veterans applied for the flight in the fall of 2007 and early 2008. As a result, there is no cost to the veterans travelling on this flight. Plans have been made for a celebration of sorts to greet the veterans upon their return. Those who would like to meet at the airport and greet Larry upon his return are invited to do so.

ZION'S THANK YOU'S

In thanks for the Robert G. Miller Estate:

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the family of Robert Miller, whose final *Will and Testament* asked that Zion be remembered, among others, with a gift to express their appreciation of our ministry and love for the Lord. Lucille, of Bob & Lucille, was a member of Zion, while Bob was a member of St. Paul's. Their bequest of \$1,445.90, as yet undesignated, will strengthen our ministry and the witness we live in our mission to grow in love and service by grace.

*With heartfelt thanks,
Zion Lutheran Church*

The Shamblen family would like to extend to the Zion congregational family an invitation to help celebrate the 50th Anniversary of their parents, Richard & Janice Shamblen, on the Sunday afternoon of September 6th. A family reception has been scheduled from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, ELCA, which is located at 156 Poplar St. in Bolivar, Ohio.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Last Thursday I spoke to the women of *The First Southern Baptist Church*, which is located at the corner of Pittsburg and Applegrove. In the past, their women handed out food to individuals on an emergency basis; but due to the intermittent distribution of their emergency food supply and the community's lack of knowledge of their available aid, their stock was expiring faster than they could disburse. Their minister came to me looking for different ways the women of their church could serve the hungry. I was more than pleased to step in and help redirect their mission. During my talk with their church women, I told them about the increase of people from North Canton needing our services. Our client base has changed from the *generation cluster* (grandmother, daughter, grand-daughter and great-grandchild) to *single parents*, then to *senior citizens* who have to choose between medications, heat in the winter, or food, and most recently the *newly laid-off workers*. We not only give them nourishment to help them through the week, we also provide sympathetic listening ears and heartfelt hugs.

When Margaret and I began overseeing the pantry our motto became, "If I won't eat it, I don't expect someone else to." We looked at the task at-hand through the eyes of mothers. We purchase food from the Akron/Canton Food Bank as if we are shopping for our own families. In the beginning we tried to order items that would create complete meals for the clients. Due to the volume of clients and the economic downturn, we no longer have that luxury. I always tell people that there are two important items that everyone needs, protein and toilet paper. Both are equally as important, and it is becoming more difficult to provide both items. When I have to choose between the two, I choose to put meat on (→)

MORE FOOD PANTRY NEWS (CONTINUED)

their tables. We do not pre-pack our grocery bags. We are what is called a *choice pantry*. If we were to pre-pack the bags with food of our choosing, what good have we done if the clients we serve receive an item which they do not like or need in their pre-packed bags?

We are open the first and third Tuesday of every month. Our work day begins at 9:00 a.m., and runs nonstop until 3:00 p.m. During the morning hours, volunteers are busily moving food items into the gym, and stocking these items on the tables. During the morning a small crew travels north to the Food Bank, and hand-over-hand loads around 3,000 pounds of food into a van. After a holiday it is not unusual to find lots and lots of bread and goodies FREE at the food bank. Usually, it is *first-come first-serve* for these items. After eight years of serving together, Margaret and I are like a wrestling tag team when it comes to the freebies. First, I dive into the freebie bin, and she pulls me out; then she dives in. This tag teaming goes on until we have enough items for all the clients. It definitely is a great day when the van is so full of goodies that we can't see out the back windows. Then, we carefully drive back to Zion where the food is unloaded, and either placed in the gym, stocked in the pantry, or loaded into the freezers. Cold packs are packed, tickets are given out to the clients, shopping carts are lined up like the Daytona 500, and just maybe we will get to eat lunch. The clients arrive at 1:00 p.m., and all are served. Then, just like clockwork the few items left are restocked, tables are taken down, shopping carts are placed back in the pantry, the lights are turned off, and the doors are closed, only to repeat the process all over in two weeks.

The State of Ohio requires paperwork to be completed by the clients each time they utilize the pantry. Our monthly numbers are reported to the State, the Akron/Canton Food Bank, and the Stark County Hunger Task Force. If we don't report our records, the pantry is suspended until all numbers are in. The pantry is under strict guidelines, and it is also inspected once a year. I always tell people how proud I am of Zion's food pantry. What especially makes me happy are all the volunteers who support the pantry and the clothing closet. Our oldest volunteer is a very spry ninety-one and the youngest is a happy eighteen month-old. We also have lots of members volunteering, who, in turn, bring their friends to help. Newer Zion members also come to help, as well as the children and grandchildren of our volunteers. The mission has not only become an outreach for the poor and the hungry, but it is also an outreach for Zion's members. We have many volunteers from all walks of life, with their own set of troubles, worries, and concerns. All of us know that when you turn your focus to those in need, your life becomes a little better. I always end my talks with churches and community groups by saying, "Hunger is neither seasonal nor discriminatory; it happens everyday, all year, and to anyone."

With the arrival of September, our attention has begun to focus on the upcoming holidays, which are just a couple of months away! This year we will be giving sixty turkey dinners with all the fixings to our clients. Once again, we will also be donating and delivering thirty-two dinners to the Siffrin group homes. Can we do it? As Bob the Builder would say, "YES WE CAN" with help from God. All of us at the pantry thank you for your continued support of this much needed outreach. No one in this great country should have to go to bed hungry.

God Bless, Shirley Cavender