

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR:

Let's talk about modern day miracles. Last year it was Captain "Sully" Sullenberger on U.S. Airways flight #1549 landing safely in the Hudson River, averting a major disaster and delivering all 155 passengers safely to shore without a single casualty. Now that's a miracle! Five years ago, it was a jet-setting, supermodel vacationing in Thailand facing down a tsunami unscathed, as 300,000 perished in that global catastrophe. Of course, that's part of the problem with modern day miracles. They're good for some, but not for all, nor even for most. That's the problem with miracles generally. They're great, to be sure. When Jesus cured those ten lepers, that was reason to leap for joy. But leprosy is still around, ruining lives and taking them, along with all sorts of other diseases, some as ancient in origin as leprosy, and lots of new ones, too.

When Jesus gave sight to the man born blind, that was a great reason to marvel at his power. But blindness continues, and not just for those who are blind from birth. How about the many others who become blind with aging, as in macular degeneration? And if we are interested in maladies babies are born with, we've discovered that millions of babies are born with all sorts of disabilities that relate to almost everything under the sun. It sure is nice that every now and then one among us experiences miraculous release from a condition that previously challenged us; but the many remain to remind us that our world is far from perfect, even with the presence of an occasional miracle. Miracles are not remarkable for the statistical patterns they fail to alter. They are remarkable for the hope they identify and inspire. That's the function they served in the New Testament, and the purpose they still serve today. In Jesus' ministry, miracles didn't change the world he lived in; but they did illumine the kind of world we hope for.

We have two modern day miracles living among us at Zion. I'll call them Steve and Rick, because I'm referring to Steve Dague and Rick Riffle. These are two men who could be dead, but are alive and literally walking among us. Steve could have died when he fell ten feet onto the concrete floor in his garage, and Rick should have died given the 4 ½ ton steel beam that fell on him in an industrial accident at the Timken Company. Both went through long periods of being completely incapacitated, with everyone wondering, including themselves, if they could recover, and what that recovery would look like. They survived their accidents, and their respective recoveries continue, each benefitting from the patience and care of the good folks at the Edwin Shaw Rehabilitation Hospital, each benefitting from the support and care of their immediate and extended families here in Stark County, and each attesting to the truth that being a modern day miracle doesn't mean that all is well and life is perfect.

Being a miracle takes strength and patience, along with lots of support, combined with the courage to endure high levels of pain, while we remain determined in hoping for the small steps that lead to progress on the road to recovery. These are the truths we have learned by having the privilege to serve as witnesses to the modern day miracles we live with here at Zion. Miracles don't make our lives perfect; but even in this imperfect world of ours, they identify what it is that we hope for, directing our faith toward the God who makes all things possible, and opening our eyes to the people who are here to stand with us as we greet the challenges that each new day offers with friends who help us to learn what it means to grow in love and service by grace.

CELEBRATING THE GREAT THREE DAYS OF HOLY WEEK

Lent leads to Holy Week, and Holy Week culminates with the **GREAT THREE DAYS** that are remembered with the institution of our Lord's Supper on **Maundy Thursday**, the death of the Crucified Christ on **Good Friday**, and the victory of Resurrection on **Easter Sunday**. These services celebrate salvation, while also giving us an opportunity to reflect on the theological significance of suffering in God's life and ours. On Maundy Thursday we will gather at Noon with our focus on prayers for healing. In the evening, we will look and listen as Jesus washes the feet of his disciples, introducing the service he will offer with his life and his death.

(Thursday, April 1)	12:00 p.m.	A Service with Prayers for Healing Reflections on Modern Day Miracles A Celebration of Quiet Communion
MAUNDY THURSDAY	7:00 p.m.	Traditional Maundy Thursday Service Our Choir sings <i>Jesus Took the Cup</i> We focus on our Lord's Last Supper

With the Cross in full view on Good Friday, our vision of God and understanding of suffering are changed forever. With that picture of Christ on the Cross we now know that God enters into the cries of the suffering. God joins us right in the midst of the pain we are forced to endure. Suffering will never again become a sign of God's displeasure with us, or His rejection of us. Nothing can ever separate us from the embrace of God's love and power of God's presence.

(Friday, April 2)	12:00 p.m.	Our Ecumenical <i>Stations of the Cross</i> The Chapel at Walsh University North Canton Ministerial Association
GOOD FRIDAY	7:30 p.m.	Zion's Historic <i>TENEBRAE</i> Service Special Readings & Special Music Our Choir will sing <i>Out of the Depths</i>

On Easter we celebrate the Good News of Resurrection and the truth of God's promise as the ground for our hope, longing for the redemption of our bodies and the restoration of God's intended order for the whole of creation. There is much to celebrate. We invite you to join us for a service of worship filled with good friends, great music, powerful preaching, a stunning Sanctuary, and the joy that is ours because God's love has come to change our lives for good.

(Sunday, April 4)	8:00 a.m.	Our Traditional Festival Worship The Choir will help lead Worship
EASTER	9:15 a.m.	Zion's Annual Easter Egg Hunt Great Fun for Kids of All Ages!
	10:30 a.m.	Blended Service of Heartfelt Praise Zion's Praise Team leads Worship

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

March's Council Meeting was about as brief as they come. We convened at 7:00 p.m., enjoyed Jim Fidler's opening devotion, approved the minutes from our last meeting, went through Dave Palumbo's overview of the February Treasurer's Report, listened to reports from our Pastor and ministries, and closed with the Lord's Prayer at 7:32 p.m.

Council members in attendance were Jim Fidler, Susan Heyard, Jayne Schrader, Dave Palumbo, Linda Lancashire, Dale Jacobs, Cathy Harvey, Jim Dansizen, Tina Beaber, and Pastor Sherwindt. Mark Votaw and Chris Thomas were unable to attend. We continue our search for a member to serve as our Caring Ministry Elder. There is also an opening for a member who would like to serve with the Deacons.

Dave Palumbo's Treasurer Report showed surprising strength, even though we experienced the usual pattern of a monthly deficit. Income was stronger than usual; expenses were not as bad as they might have been. We are happy with where we stand through two months of the year. In hiring a Church Secretary, we know that operating expenses will begin to show a regular monthly increase. We hope to see a corresponding increase in congregational support.

ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS: FEBRUARY

February Income	19,656.70
February Expenses	17,478.28
February (Deficit)	(2,178.42)
Income thru February	38,969.65
Expenses thru February	41,434.11
2010 YTD (Deficit)	(2,464.46)
2009 YTD (Deficit)	(3,468.38)

We thank you for your generous support!

WORSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

Worship Ministry: Dale Jacobs reported on our schedule of services through March and into April with Lent and Holy Week. Our Sunday Evening Lenten Programs featured excellent dinners, and even greater excellence with our Lenten services. We thank Jim Fidler for his outstanding portrayal of *Barabbas* during our March 7 service. We thank the Senior Choir and Praise Team for their wonderful voices and a truly delightful service filled with lots of Lenten music on March 14. We thank the Youth of Zion and their parents for dinner on March 21, and the youth, in particular, for their memorable rendering of Luke's Passion Narrative.

The food at each of our Lenten dinners was exceptional, beginning with the Men of Zion, who prepared sub-sandwiches, along with mac 'n cheese. Zion's Chancel Guild served their typically tasty ham 'n cheese sandwiches. The Church Council tapped Dave Palumbo's connection with Devitis Italian Market in Akron, along with lots of delicious, homemade desserts. The Senior Choir & Praise Team then tapped Dale's wizardry with glazed ham and creamy potatoes. Finally, the Youth of Zion drafted their parents who ended on another Italian high note. It is truly amazing what delicious food we serve at our Sunday Evening Lenten Dinners. How any of us can miss even one of our Sunday evening specials is a mystery more incomprehensible than the mystery of real presence in the Lord's Supper!

We extend our thanks to the many persons who make these services possible – worship leaders, musicians, readers, our youth and youth leaders, choristers, ushers, deacons, acolytes, and our members and friends for the support they show with their presence and the worship they offer with their praise.

MORE COUNCIL NEWS

Witness Ministry: Jim Dansizen reported that our Witness Team is ready to start up the *Sunday Brunch Bunch* after Easter. We are looking for a group of 20 to 24 persons to join us for lunch after worship on April 18th, when we'll meet at *Old Carolina Barbeque*, which is located on Everhard Road. With a group this size, the cost will be no more than \$10 per person. We vouch for the food, and how can you miss with the company you'll be keeping! Speaking about good food and great company, you can also start planning on another *End-of-the-Summer Party* right around Labor Day. We are also planning on upgrading our display at North Canton's *Main Street Festival* in August. Finally, we are looking into hosting a presentation by the Stark County Prosecutor's Office on the topic of becoming organized as a *Neighborhood Crime Watch Group*, along with helping our neighbors think about *Home Security*.

Steering Ministry: Susan Heyard suggested that we think of ways to thank the persons who have volunteered in the Church Office during the two years we have been without a Church Office Secretary. We decided that gift cards would be nice, along with a special date for lunch to thank them for their service. We took a moment during both services on March 7 to thank Helen Alex, Vicki Givler, Mabel Kolarik, Carol Rossbach, and Betty Tracy for their much-needed assistance, and to mark Jayne Schrader's beginning with a Rite of Installation and Blessing.

Parish Life Ministry: Zion's Coed Softball team will soon begin practice sessions at Dogwood Park, and we really need some new players to join our team. Both men and women are needed. Please reconsider helping us field a team this year. See Bob Lancashire with your willingness to play with us.

SOME FAMILY NEWS

Pastor, Council, and our Church Family,

"We never know how deeply an act of kindness can touch a heart." Just wanted to let you know how very much your thoughtfulness was appreciated. Thank you so much for the gift card. The lunch at Rockne's was very nice. It was our pleasure to help in a small way at the Church Office. With sincere appreciation and our warmest thanks –

*Mabel Kolarik, Helen Alex,
Vicki Givler, Jayne Schrader,
Carol Rossbach, Betty Tracy*

GREAT NEWS FROM ZION'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Easter Sunday, April 4: Zion's Annual Easter Egg Hunt during the Sunday School Hour

Easter Sunday, April 4: Zion's Children's Choir sings during the 10:30 a.m. Service

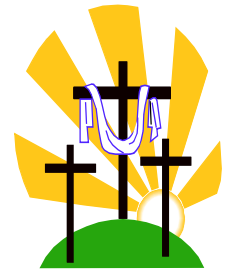
Mother's Day, May 9th: Zion's Mother's Day Breakfast during the Sunday School Hour

Mother's Day, May 9th: Zion's Children's Choir sings during the 10:30 a.m. Service

THE CHILDREN'S EASTER PROGRAM AND OUR EASTER EGG HUNT

The Children's Easter Program was a great success. The kids did a fantastic job telling us the Easter story and providing us with a little humor along the way.

Thank you to all of the kids for their hard work and effort! Our program was entitled *Props for Easter*, and it told the tale of two children who found that the Easter Bunny had left a basket full of unexpected *goodies*. Our cast of children then unraveled the mystery behind each of the items in the special Easter Basket, items like the cross, a rock, a torn curtain, a loaf of bread, a goblet, a lamb, praying hands, and so much more. We were all reminded of the true meaning of Easter!



Thank you, as well, to everyone who helped with the program! It was a collective effort involving many of our members. Thanks to the Sunday School teachers – Janet Slease, Connie Riffle, Vicki Givler, Sharon Stout, Renee Schrader, and Tina Beaber – for all your help during Sunday School, the pizza party afterwards, and the day of the program, too. Thanks to Kelly Walters for helping with the music, and to Suzanne Waters for her beautiful accompaniment. Thanks to Brian Walters for helping us to sound so great with the sound system. Thanks to Laura Thompson, Darlene Dague, Taylor Roman, Laura Kay and Kelly Walters for helping with the rehearsal and pizza party, and finally thanks to Pastor Sherwindt, Betty Tracy, Vicki Givler, the Roman family, and Jeff & Connie Frank for their help with our props!

We will have our Children's Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, which is April 4th, during the Sunday School Hour, beginning at 9:15 a.m. Children of all ages are invited to go on an Easter Egg Hunt for over five hundred eggs filled with all sorts of goodies and lots of surprises. They will hunt for eggs all over the church, and outside, too, if the weather permits. Please have your children bring their Easter Baskets on Easter morning, which they will need to gather the eggs they find. We will meet in the Narthex at 9:15 a.m. After finishing our hunt for all the Easter eggs we can find, we will meet in Senior Independence for donuts, milk, and juice, as we continue our Easter celebration with great snacks and some fun Easter games.



MORE GOOD NEWS FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT ZION

THANK YOU FOR A GREAT YOUTH LENTEN DINNER

We extend a very special thank you to Tina Beaber, Lisa Kay, Lisa Roman, and Renee Schrader for taking the lead in planning this year's Youth dinner. The food was great, providing the *grand finale* of a delicious exclamation point in bringing our five Sunday Evening Lenten Dinners to a very enjoyable end. We really appreciate all of the families who donated food, drinks, and their time with serving, set-up and clean-up. All would agree that it was a great evening from start to finish.

We would also like to thank and congratulate our youth on the outstanding job they did during the service. Their reading of the Passion Narrative from the Gospel of Luke was truly moving! Everyone did a great job; but there were a few moments that stood out this year. Savannah Heller was a great choice for Jesus; Casey Walters really nailed his role as the compassionate criminal dying alongside of Jesus; and Christopher Thompson's resonant voice as the Roman centurion marveling at Jesus' innocence was a great fit with the line he delivered.

ZION'S CHILDREN'S CHOIR WILL SING ON EASTER SUNDAY



The Children's Choir will be back on Easter Sunday, when they sing at the 10:30 a.m. service. In celebration with the new light that has dawned with the Resurrection of our Lord, our children will sing *Shine, Jesus, Shine*. Thanks to Kelly Walters for the great job she is doing with the kids! As a reminder to all, the Children's Choir practices Sunday from 9:10 a.m. to 9:25 a.m. in the Choir Room, with children heading to their Sunday School classes at 9:30 a.m.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! AND MORE THANK YOU'S

We would like to thank everyone for supporting the Acme receipt program. Because of your effort, we received a check from the *Acme Cash-Back Program* for \$144.94, which will support our youth programming. We appreciate everyone for saving and bringing in all those receipts!

2010 YOUTH MISSIONS CRAFT SHOW AND OKTOBERFEST

Speaking about raising money to support our youth programming, our Seventh Annual Youth Missions Craft Show is on the calendar for October 16, 2010, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The basic fee for an eight-foot table is the same as last year, \$35.00. We have already begun to hear from crafters that are interested in returning. Those who joined us last year thought very highly about the hospitality we show and the shoppers we drew. We are working on posting relevant registration information online. You can find us at www.ZionEvangelicalLutheranChurch.org.

THANK YOU FROM OUR YOUTH FOR SOUPER BOWL SUPPORT

The Souper Bowl Collection was a huge success! Tina Beaber, Kelly Walters, Christian Heller, Taylor Roman, and Laura Kay went shopping and were able to buy 72 brand new items with the \$358.36 we collected through your contributions. Mark Votaw will deliver these items to *Shoes & Clothes for Kids*, a charity in Cleveland. The Youth of Zion thank you for your generosity.

THE WOMEN OF ZION

“Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you.” (Romans 15:7) The theme of our women’s Bible study for April’s is **Holy Hospitality**. In the world of ancient Greece, hospitality was something that was reserved for friends. Paul makes the point in Romans that “while we were yet sinners and enemies, Christ died for us that we might be reconciled to God.” (Romans 5:6, 10) Grace turns the world upside down. Hospitality is not to be restricted to friends and neighbors, but extended to strangers and enemies precisely because that’s what God has done in Christ. When we welcome one another as Christ has welcomed us, the love of God is alive in us and the glory of God is revealed through us. The Women’s Bible Study meets in the Resource Center on the third Tuesday, which is April 20, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Join us. You’ll be glad you did, and so will we.

We extend our thanks to **Zion’s Chancel Guild** for their hard work and dedication in maintaining the beauty of our Sanctuary and preparing it for worship. Their *Cleaning Night* on March 9 left the silver and brass polished, as well as our hymnals repaired. Holy Week also requires extra attention in stripping the Chancel on Maundy Thursday, draping the Cross for Good Friday, and setting out the many lilies we use to add beauty to our Sanctuary on Easter Sunday.

Zion’s Comfort Givers meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, which will be April 8 & 22, at 9:30 a.m. in Luther Hall. We enjoy coffee, conversation, and the satisfaction that comes with knowing that persons in need around the globe benefit from the good that we do through the quilts we sew, the blankets we collect, along with the Health Kits and School Kits we assemble.

THE MEN OF ZION

First things first: the Men of Zion plan to meet for dinner on April 7 to discuss plans for a future fundraiser for phase one of the new carpet. We’re working on the idea of a nicely timed **Prime Rib Dinner**. We’d like to sell sixty tickets at \$15.00 apiece, for a dinner that will leave you wondering how we can make money charging only \$15.00! It will be a great dinner and a great fundraiser, too, if we can count on your support. Watch for more details as our plans develop.

Speaking about delicious dinners, even though we did not do the cooking, we heard that the *St. Patrick’s Day Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinners*, prepared by Lutheran Men in Mission, were truly exceptional. Once again, Zion’s generosity in supporting the event was on full display with the sixty-plus tickets we purchased and donated. We shared our generosity with the men at the parsonage, Dick and Bruce Findlay’s housemates, quite a few of Zion’s shut-ins, and our many friends whom we serve through the Food Pantry. The Men of Zion thank you for your support of Lutheran Men in Mission and the ministries these dinners helped to fund.

Lutheran Men in Mission invite the Men of Zion to attend their *Spring Rally* at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Alliance on April 10, for a program that focuses on what it means to be a disciple. Pr. Dick Williams is the keynote speaker. The program begins at 8:30 a.m. On the weekend of June 4—5, Lutheran Men in Mission hope to use Zion’s facilities to host a Region VI Building Men for Christ Event. (Region VI refers to the Northeastern Ohio Synod, the Southern Ohio Synod, the Northwestern Ohio Synod, the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, the Lower Michigan Synod, and the Southeast Michigan Synod.)

THE BOOK OF FAITH AND OUR ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

The Adult Sunday School Class is continuing a new study from the *People of Faith* Bible Studies Series. After Easter, we will begin our study of *A Lament, a Dreamer and Two Pretty Good Leaders*. This is the second of a series designed to explore Bible characters in a way that drives home the point that the stories of God's people that have been preserved for us in the Bible are not just information about men and women who lived long ago; they are about us. These stories tell us who we are – and who God is for us. As we read these stories about a lamenter, a dreamer, and two pretty good leaders, we will learn not just what Rachel, Joseph, Moses or Joshua did. We will learn something central about who we are and where God is in our stories. The truth is that we open the pages of Scripture in order to discover ourselves.

In this unit we will meet four more key characters: *Rachel, Joseph, Moses and Joshua*. Each of the people we cover in this unit has a big story in the sense that their stories are rich. Each of the people we cover has a foreign story in the sense that the stories will have features that are foreign to modern readers. For instance, Rachel is part of a polygamous family system, which is surely foreign to the way we organize our families. These stories cover a lot of ground. Each one will take us outside of the Promised Land, and then back into it. Yet, each of the people we will be learning about has a familiar story – both in the sense that many readers will know part of these stories, and in the sense that the things they struggle with are the familiar struggles of God's people in all times and places.

Rachel's story may be the least familiar of these stories to modern readers, but through her we get a clear picture of how God is present even in our lamentations, as well as in our sadness. Joseph's story also includes great sadness. It is our hope that by meeting ourselves in Joseph's story, we will learn what Joseph learned, that God is a knitter, a God who picks up the dropped stitches and patches the holes in our stories. Most of us probably think that we know Moses' story pretty well. After all, we may have seen the movie about Moses, that one produced by Cecil B. DeMille entitled *The Ten Commandments*. But what we think we know isn't always accurate, and what we learn from God's Word can often be surprising. As we learn from Moses' story that God lives to free us, we might do well to keep in mind that one of the things we need to be set free from is our misconceptions, which, in this case, has to do with who Moses was, what he did, and what that means for us.

It has become a pattern in our Adult Sunday School Class that on one Sunday a month we set aside the past and take a look at some contemporary articles from *The Lutheran*, the ELCA's monthly magazine. On the second Sunday of April, which is April 11, Mabel Kolarik will be leading a discussion on the topic of prayer. Prayer forms the foundation of our house of faith. Each prayer is a step on our journey as disciples. It is our communication with, to, and from God. While there are no bad ways to pray, many have found their prayer life enriched by discovering new ways to pray. Mabel will lead us in discussing new and old types of prayers, how to pray, how to develop the habit of prayer, how to use prayer beads, and many more interesting ideas about prayer. Plan to join us. You'll be glad you did, and so will we.

NEWS FROM ZION'S FOOD PANTRY & CLOTHING CLOSET

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A few months back, Margaret and I became aware that the State of Ohio required all pantry directors to take a course on Civil Rights, if we wished to continue running a food pantry. I was a little taken aback with being forced to take this course. Let's face it, experience is a great teacher; and during our nine years of experience in running the pantry, we have always acted with respect for Civil Rights – though we may not have called it Civil Rights! We didn't have to call it Civil Rights, since, in addition to our 1st rule of food pantry service, which is "if I won't eat it, then don't expect someone else to", we have a second rule, namely, "do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Both are very simple rules to follow.

Our clientele is made up of a broad cross-section of individuals. We have had clients with walkers, and wheelchairs; some were felons, others hoarders. Many have been divorced. Some have trouble telling the truth. There are women who have lost their children to children's services. We serve white people, African Americans, Asians, Pakistanis, cancer survivors, folks with neurological brain disorders, diabetics, clients with heart disease, and every other sad situation out there any of us might imagine. Christ calls us to love our neighbors. Our two simple rules tell us how. We try to keep it simple. That has worked pretty well for nine years, and running.

Early in March, Margaret and I were given a test following a 2 ½ hour lecture! After we had wrapped up our tests and handed them to the person in charge, we thanked her for her time, but we couldn't resist letting her know how odd it was to have to take a Civil Rights course so that we could continue doing what we have been doing so well for so long. It just seemed like common sense: if you are in the business of helping people and working as a volunteer, you already have a respect for Civil Rights imbedded in your heart. I guess that says more about who we are as a church family than what the legal system expects and requires. It's nice to know that respecting the Civil Rights of those we serve comes so naturally to our Pantry Crew.

Now, due to requirements from the government, as pantry directors, Margaret and I are to present this course on Civil Rights to our volunteers. Our course also touched on Food Safety, and we'll have to relay that to our Food Pantry Crew, too. Luckily, we are now experts, since we passed both courses with 100 percent! The test was a no brainer, but it did reinforce the simple rules we have in place for taking a bite out of hunger. We are committed to caring about the food we distribute, the people we serve, and the friends who join us on the first and third Tuesdays for a wonderful day of volunteer service. Thanks for caring, and thanks for helping.

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God Bless,
Shirley Cavender

Growing in Love and Service by Grace

