Merry Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace and Peace be with you all. Happy New Year! We had a very chilly and snowy December, so be prepared for anything this coming month. We have a lot of great things happening at Zion, so mark your calendars for the Chili cook off, the Biggest Loser competition, and much more. I'm looking forward to it myself.

Is it hard to take down the decorations? It is for me. Not because I have a lot of decorations, but it's the symbolism of removing the tree, the lights, putting the ornaments away, that makes it hard. In the past, because of my dad's birthday being in January, we left the decorations up until much later in the month. We had to take care of the tree longer, but we made it work. It was nice to have the decorations out longer. It felt like we were still celebrating.

When the decorations finally did get put away, we were excited to start the next phase of the year. The snow was gone, the Spring was coming, and we could celebrate God's love in new ways with Lent and Easter. There is a time and a place for everything, after all. January was always an odd time for me in the church. It felt like I didn't know what to do with myself. Should we still celebrate Christmas? Is it time for Lent yet?

Lent, Advent, and Christmas are seasons that have special meaning and personal memories for us all. Perhaps this year we can make memories of January and February as well. What special things can we do at church this month? What happy times can we bring to people in our lives? There are always opportunities to show Christ's love around us, and wouldn't it be great if we did this by more than decorations! Let us be the hope our community seeks. God bless you all, and many happy days be with you! Amen!

Pastor Dave Miller

Dear Friends in Christ,

I hope you had the greatest Christmas ever and that the love of God in Jesus Christ has found a home in your heart in a very special way. We need Christ in our hearts as we approach the new year. Just think of the wonderful opportunities ahead for us as we seek to be partners with our Lord. Truly we are friends in Christ striving to do his will. May his will make itself known to us this new year so that all may be filled with his joy. Peace and God's blessings to you and your family.

Yours in Christ,

Tim Landers
Pastor

A congregational meeting will be held January 22 & 23 at all services. We will be passing out the annual report and approving the 2011 nominating committee. Please plan on being here.

Annual Reports are due in the church office by Sunday, January 9, 2011. Thanks for your timely attention to this matter.
Women of the ELCA

Women of Zion, as disciples of Christ, are called to grow in faith, discover and use our gifts, and serve in our communities at home and throughout the world.

Gifts for Christ

Christmas has come and now life can slow down. We might be looking at our thoughtful gifts and from whom they came, however our most precious gift isn’t always easy to pick up and hold in our hands; OR IS IT? The Christ Child was given gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Precious and of great worth, gifts for a King on the day of Epiphany.

We receive gifts from our Christ everyday, not just one day a year but everyday. The gift of His grace. How often do I give Him the gift He wants from me? Christ wants all His children everyday not just on Christmas or Epiphany but everyday and in all that we do.

My Christmas prayer is in thanking for all that I am and all that I have and Christ’s guidance and strength to do that which He wants me to do. May I smile at a stranger, hold the hand of a child, help feed the hungry and love my family and friends. Gifts of love, grace and peace have been given to all through the birth of our Christ.

Women of Zion Board Members

The board meets the second Monday of each month

- President: Elaine Carpenter
- Vice President: Thelma Martin
- Secretary: Shari Gerold
- Treasurer: Lori Rehm
- Mission-Action: Anita Snyder & Susan Merchant
- Mission-Growth: Gayle Ford & Karen Seckel
- Mission-Community: Joy Merrill
- Student Representative: Jenna Landers

Please contact any Board member with your suggestions and/or concerns. Installation of board members and committee chairs will take place at both services in January.

Bingo at Butler County Care Facility

January 10, the Women of Zion plan to visit the Butler County Care Facility at 1800 Princeton Rd. at 2:00 pm to play Bingo with residents. If you would like to help with refreshments or give out prizes, please be at the facility at 2:00 pm. If you have any questions, contact Becky Haacke at 524-4048.

2011 Women’s Packet

The 2011 packets will be distributed to confirmed women in mid January and be available in the Great Hall after that. Each packet contains the annual program booklet telling about the Women of Zion organization and our projects. Also included is a Thankoftering box which can be placed in a conspicuous place to receive dollars and coins when there is a special joy or relief from an on-going problem. Sitting out on the dresser or desk, this little box can be a reminder that our material things, our family, church, friends, health, are all gifts from God. Please make sure you pick up a packet and mark your calendars for the activities.

Lenten Luncheons

Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent, is March 9 and the Women of Zion will provide lunches following the mid-day worship service every Wednesday during Lent. The meal consists of soup, sandwich, jell-o and desert.

Women’s General Meeting

Our first general meeting is March 7th. The exchange of prayer-pals will take place at this meeting. Plan to join us for pizza and salad and an evening of fellowship.

Prayer Boxes

The debate continues as to whether the prayer box originated in the Buddhist or Hindu faith. Today they are used by many faiths including Christianity. Their purpose is to focus your mind on one's prayerful thoughts. Some people do this by writing down a prayer and placing it in the box. As problems arise or blessings occur, the prayer can be added to, or changed. It is our constant reminder of our connection to God.

Besides the religious significance of prayer boxes, some are used as a sentimental box, such as placing a lock of your child's hair, or first tooth. Others serve as an inspirational message boxes, engraved with such words as Peace, Hope, Love or Faith.

Many use prayer boxes as jewelry, and for no other purpose. Some have embedded gemstones, such as birthday month or a fashion need. Prayer boxes can be a comfort in difficult times. A way to get closer to God. A way to write a prayer to God, whose help you are seeking. It is our hope that you have found comfort with your prayer box in you talks with God.
BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB

The Book of the Month Club will meet on Tuesday, January 4, for dinner and a movie in the church lounge. We’re going to watch Little Miss Sunshine. Starring Toni Collette, Greg Kinnear, Steve Carell, Abigail Breslin, Alan Arkin and Paul Dano, it is the story of a family determined to get their young daughter into the finals of a beauty pageant take a cross-country trip in their VW bus. After many mishaps, the family pulls together to make a little girl’s dream come true.

We will be having a covered dish dinner before the movie. Barbecue and buns will be provided. Please bring a covered dish to share and join the fun.

Then, on February 8 we’ll meet to discuss The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo by Stieg Larsson. This spellbinding amalgam of murder mystery, family saga, love story, and financial intrigue was a sensation across Europe, with millions of copies sold.

It’s about the disappearance forty years ago of Harriet Vanger, a young scion of one of the wealthiest families in Sweden...and about her octogenarian uncle, determined to know the truth about what he believes was her murder.

It’s about Mikael Blomkvist, a crusading journalist recently at the wrong end of a libel case, hired to get to the bottom of Harriet’s disappearance...and about Lisbeth Salander, a twenty-four-year-old pierced and tattooed genius hacker possessed of the hard-earned wisdom of someone twice her age - and a terrifying capacity for ruthlessness to go with it - who assists Blomkvist with the investigation. This unlikely team discovers a vein of nearly unfathomable iniquity running through the Vanger family, astonishing corruption in the highest echelons of Swedish industrialism - and an unexpected connection between themselves.

Plan on joining us in the church lounge at 6:30 p.m. for both of these events. We always welcome new people. Remember, reading is good for the mind and soul!

A DEVOTIONAL MOMENT

Our national Women of the E.L.C.A. (WELCA) sends us monthly devotionals that we are including in the Messenger. These are a nice addition to our Portals of Prayer series. We hope that you think so too!

December
Do Not Be Afraid

Opening Hymn
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly ELW # 276

Luke 2:8-14

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

Reflection

In times of doubt, whether personal, career-related or about the church, we can too easily become afraid—afraid to share the good news, afraid to witness to the work of Women of the ELCA, afraid to boldly live out our mission. But this season reminds us to not be afraid and instead, like the shepherds, to move away from fear and apprehension to rejoicing: Rejoicing in Christ’s birth and his meaning for us in the world.

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson wrote recently about his desire for us as a church to leave timidity behind and boldly embrace our life together in this church and in the world:

Let us not be timid as we boldly proclaim Jesus Christ and participate in God’s healing of the world. Let us generously, faithfully and courageously respond to the groaning of the creation and the cries of humanity. ... We delight in the promise of the new creation that God is bringing to life in Christ. We joyfully embrace the world and all its inhabitants in love and service. What a cause for rejoicing!*

Closing Hymn
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice ELW # 288

Box Tops for Education

Please save Box Tops for Education (on General Mills Products), and Campbell’s Soup labels. These are collected at various City of Hamilton elementary schools to pay for field trips. There is a container in the lounge to put them in. We will see that they get to an elementary school that can use them. Special thank you to Florence Hofmann for the two large bags she brought in. Thanks.
December was a busy month for the kids in TRUTH. We had our 2nd Annual Cookie Sale Fundraiser. Thank you to all who have supported us!!

News and Fundraisers!

Don't forget to get your Kroger re-loadable cards! TRUTH already added $5 as a thank-you for supporting us. Thank you to all of those who have already received one! If you want one, please ask a TRUTH member for more information.

**Bonus Sunday is coming January 30th!** Our project for this Bonus Sunday is the Malaria Initiative. Don't forget the special offering on January 30th! This will help TRUTH complete another special community service project. Thank you to all that have already participated!!! :)

Pizza Fundraiser details will be coming out soon! Look for more information in the bulletin or ask any TRUTH member for more details.

**December's Activities were.....**
- December 5: Went out to lunch at Chili's and shopped for our Adopt-A-Family
- December 11: Cookie tray assembly and wrapping our Adopt-A-Family gifts
- December 19: TRUTH Christmas Party at the Sears' house
- December 26: No meeting.

**Upcoming events for January are.....**
- January 2: No meeting. Pizza Fundraiser starts today!
- January 9: Business Meeting
- January 16: Fun day!
- January 23: LYO Retreat and Fun Day for those not going
- January 29 (Saturday!!): Pizza Assembly and pick-up
- January 30: Bonus Sunday!! Malaria Initiative and no meeting

Zion Seniors

The Young at Heart, a social group for those 55 and over, will be eating lunch at the Riverbank Café on Main Street in Hamilton on Tuesday, January 25. We'll meet at the restaurant at 11:15 a.m. Please sign the sign-up sheet in the great hall if you would like to go along.

We encourage all our seniors or almost seniors to participate. It gives you a chance to get to know your fellow church members.

**FAMILY BINGO NIGHT**

Saturday, January 15
6:30 p.m.

Bring a favorite snack and join the fun!

**YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Youth Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 25 at 7:00 p.m. to brainstorm and come up with ideas for children, youth, and family activities. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. Questions, call Linda Herget at 895-2769.

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:** We now have gluten free communion wafers available. If you need to use this special wafer, please let the pastor know as he's serving communion or before any service on communion Sundays.
Squeak Squeak, everybody. How’s the weather out there? It’s nice and warm where I made my nest this year! It was within view of the Giving Tree and the Nativity scene in the lounge. Thank you to the people that set it up this year! I was so glad to see the presents for the children under the tree, and even more glad that some people were generous to take two! Thank you for making their Christmas a little brighter. Now don’t forget to come to the Biggest Loser competition at Zion’s Gym Jan 4th, 2011. It’s a great chance to work off those extra holiday cheeses. Well, that’s what I’ll be working off when I go. God bless, friends!

Martin
EUCHRE NIGHT
SATURDAY, JANUARY 29th

6:30-7:00 – INSTRUCTIONAL
7:00-10:00 – TOURNAMENT PLAY

Join us for Euchre on Saturday, January 29th. The night will play out the same as usual -- we will have a refresher/ instructional time 30 minutes prior to the actual tournament play. You do not need to have a partner to play. We do ask that you commit to the entire 3-hour event. Bring a snack to share and soft drinks will be provided. Reminder there is a $1 entry fee.

If interested in joining us, please sign the sheet in the Great Hall. This is VERY IMPORTANT for us to be able to plan our tables. If you have any questions, please contact Vicki or Bob Wheeler at 737-6915 (or vwheeler@cinci.rr.com).

T.R.U.T.H.
Pizza Fundraiser

TRUTH will be doing the take and bake pizza fundraiser again. Orders will be taken in January for pick-up at the church on Saturday, January 29. Payment at time of placing the order would be appreciated, but can be made at pick-up. The pizzas are fresh and can be baked the same day or frozen for months. Instructions are included with each pizza. The monies for this fundraiser will be used for TRUTH outings, as well as the ELCA gathering in New Orleans in 2012. More information to follow in upcoming bulletins.

THE LUTHERAN
A Magazine of the ELCA

Zion is committed to keeping its members aware of what is going on in the larger Lutheran church. We try to put copies of THE LUTHERAN in everyone’s hands. However to keep the cost down, we are asking members, as they are able, to cover the cost of subscriptions received. If you are able and willing, please visit our involvement center to pick up an envelope to place your cash/check in or mail a check to the office at Zion designating for The Lutheran. If you have more questions please contact either:

Robin Kaelin 513-284-5176/rkaelin6358@yahoo.com or Lou Robinson 513-478-8711/lrobinson@cinci.rr.com

Thank you ahead of time for you assistance with this.

Congregations grow when members invite their friends to worship and fellowship activities.

Special Attention: Please pray for those unable to attend worship this Winter. Please also pray especially hard for people traveling home from family get-together-parties.
January Adult Fellowship

Chili
Cook-Off
and Game Night!

January 8, 2011
6:00 p.m. in Zion’s Gym

Join is for a variety of chilies, friends and fellowship.

Hosted by Joe and Julia Sears
E Mail: searsj@ohioheart.org (Julia)
Phone: 513-894-9039

Please bring:
• Your beverage of choice
• Your favorite (or most unique) chili
• Condiments are appreciated, such as cheese, crackers, onions, hot sauce, etc.
• Your favorite board or card game.

Please sign up in the great hall.

SOCIAL CONCERNS – COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Open Door Pantry

January 23 the ushers will make available brown grocery bags that can be filled with non-perishable food stuff to fill the shelves of the Open Door Pantry. Open Door Pantry has provided staples to the families of our community for many years; once again let’s help them fulfill their mission. Our collection target date will be Valentine’s Day, February 14, 2011.

Community Meals

Special thanks to the New Year’s Eve Community Meals helpers. What a great way to end 2010 and begin 2011.

Blessings Abound

Here is a short list of some of the blessings members have reported in the last month…

Melissa Burns and Madison are home from the hospital. Madison weights 4 lbs. and is doing great. Thank for your prayers. Vicki Wheeler

The following shut-in is celebrating his birthday in January. All members of Zion are encouraged to send a card, make a phone call or visit a shut-in. You’ll find that you are being a blessing and receiving a blessing yourself from these contacts.

Mr. Carl Guckenberger 1/16
Hawthorn Glen Retirement
5414 Hankins Rd.
Middletown, OH 45044

The following gifts have been given to Zion.

In memory of Ethelynn James
For the Radio Fund: Kenneth & Sarah Williams

In memory of Bob Beyer
For the Memorial Fund: Jack & Judith Young
Our prayers for God's healing and strength are offered for those who have been hospitalized or have medical or personal issues:

Name: 
John Adams
Helen Marie Becker
Marge Belew
Joan Besanceney
Lorainne Blanchard
Richard Block
John Bowser
Vicki Brunner
Melissa & Madison Burns
Jewel Calihan
Nicole Carson
Nelda Chandler
Kathy Chambers
Gardner Cole
Natalie Cornwell
Evelyn Craig
Carl Crane
Lynn Davidson
Kathy DeBord
Karrie Dodez
Phyllis Duerr
Ray Dustrude
Jack & Evelyn Duvall
Anna Mae Edwards
Janet Eggleston
Lucy Emrick
Barbara Engel
Ron Erbeck
Debbie Gentry
Debbie Gibson
Tom Gibson
Tiernee Gonzales
Mary Greeley
Carl & Edna Guckenberger
Randy Jackson
Ralph & Dorothy Jones
Tammy Jones
Sherry Joy
Shelby Kane
Brian Keck
Lee & Melba Kehner
Carolyn Kelley
Ava Kemen
Addie Killian
Reba King
Jimmy Kollstedt
Steve Lantis
Kurtis Larson
Rudy Larson
Louis Lesher
Jennifer M
Dr Chris Meier
Joy Merrill
Ellen Mikulich
Cindy Moll
Jean Mueller
Betty Mullen
Amanda Nelson
Mitch Parker
John Peck
Robert Politty
Kate Reed
John Roberts
Ed Schmidt
Erica Schulze & family
LeRoy & Mary Snay
Patty Sroufe
LaVerne Stewart
Jackie Isaacs Stout
Debbie Sundermier
Tom Suttman
Doris Theiss
Juanita Tudor
Michael Twining
Gary Vest
Caroline Wendelken
Steffanie & Claire Westerfield
Beth Young
Carol Hofmann Yount
Phyllis Zinsmeister

Requested by:
Tillie Adams
Jon Bartels
Ingrid Sanders
Member
Gail Konrad
Member
Joan Boling
Shirley Snyder
Vicki Wheeler
Member
Robin Kaelin
Member
Ingrid Sanders
Shirley Snyder
Gretchen Radler
Carolyn Soupene
Member
Gladys Weidner
Gail Konrad
Karen Seckel
Members
Frank Martin
Members
Kathy Chambers
Member
Member
Gretchen Radler
Julia Sears
Lindsey & Joe Gibson
Member
Members
Member
Ingrid Sanders
Jean Keck
Members
Member
Joe & Julia Sears
Karen Pflaumer
Mike Ford
Gail Konrad
Member
Ruth Larson
Member
Donna Wolfe
Edith Stewart
Betty Ross
Member
Evelyn DuVall
Debbie Ferguson
Member
Libby Huston
Frank Martin
Janis Reed
Joy Merrill
Member
Member
Member
Gail Konrad
Julia Sears
Member
Member
David Carson
Member
Gail Konrad
Florence Hofmann
Douglas Schwing

Our sincere Christian sympathy is extended to the families and friends of Nodie Townsend (mother-in-law of Sophia Townsend) who passed away in December 9; Paul Pfaff (father of Jody Picagli) who passed away on December 14; Bob Beyer who passed away on December 16; and Doug DeBord (father of Lisa DeBord and Beth Chaulk) who passed away on December 26.

Continue to pray for those in the armed forces, Dustin Cunningham (grandson of Joan Cunningham); Joe Copas, Jeff Chasteen, Megan Snyder, Ben Boyce (deployed to Iraq), Justin Follick, Kevin Niemann, Nick Ford, Lisa Johnson Lowery, and Dustin Lowery.

***If you have a joy or sorrow to share and be prayed for, please notify the church office. We strive to include everyone.

As people of God we want to pray for all who are sick or have other prayer requests. If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, please fill out a prayer request and put it in the offering plate. However, if you have added someone and they need to be taken off the list, please fill out a request and put it in the offering plate, or call the church office. Thanks for your help.
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It’s a new year and a time to start new traditions. Try coming to an Adult Fellowship Activity and meet fellow Zion members and their friends & family.

Zion’s Adult Fellowship is a unique and rewarding way to get to know members of our Zion family and a terrific venue to introduce friends and family to Zion.

When someone joins a new church, it is very difficult to connect in an hour or two on Sunday morning. Activities beyond the structure of a church service lead to a comfort level and make the church a home and family. This has been the experience we have had this past year in this new outreach ministry.

So, start thinking of ideas you would like to see this in the New Year.

It’s here!!!!

The ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF
&
The 2011 Adult Fellowship Sign-up

January 8, 2011

Once again we are excited to have our “ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF” And sign-up for the 2011 year of Fun Adult Fellowship Activities.

Hosted by:
Joe and Julia Sears
Sign up in the Great Hall.
Check your Bulletin for details of the event

Watch your Messenger and Bulletin starting in February for the new activities we have planned.

If you have questions feel free to contact us:
Kathy Frye
PH: 868-7179 email: pilgrimspride@fuse.net

Craig Jones
PH: 7793236 - email: craig_j1s@hotmail.com

Or contact Julia in the office for information.
**

If you haven’t joined us for an activity,
PLEASE COME AND JOIN US We’d love to have you!
Thanks to our December bulletin stuffers: Inas Clark, Barb & Tom Toman, Joy Merrill, Susan Merchant, Lori Rehm, Cindy Burkhart and Sandy Parker.

Thanks to Kathy Chambers for cleaning up the donuts and coffee in December, and to all who picked up the donuts each week.

Thank you to everyone who helped prepare the church for our Christmas eve services. The church looked beautiful. Thank you as well to everyone who took part in the services. We have a lot of talented and capable people at Zion and it was apparent that evening.

Thank you to everyone who donated towards the Christmas purse for the staff. It was very thoughtful. Thanks for your generosity.

The staff of Zion Lutheran Church

Thank you to Jean Keck for baking communion bread for the first Sunday of December.

Thank you to all who gave me gifts and cards at Christmas. I appreciate everything. It means a lot to know you care.

Julia Hilbert

Special Thanks: Dear friends, thank you so much for all the cards and the gifts, and the cookies! I felt the love! Merry Christmas to you all, and I hope your New Year was great!

Pastor Dave

Dear Karen,

Thank you for your donation and support of the Animal Friends Humane Society. The pet portrait photo session at Zion Lutheran Church was a huge success! Thank you for allowing us to be there and work with you. You were a major player in the success of this fundraiser and we can’t thank you enough. We can’t continue our programs at the shelter without compassionate donors like you. **We are thankful to have you as a friend and ongoing supporter!**

The Animal Friends Humane Society is Butler County’s largest, oldest non-profit animal shelter. On a typical day we house 200-300 animals. We are the only open admission shelter in Butler County. Open admission means we take all pets, from aggressive animals, to friendly animals, to deceased pets. Local support helps the 7,000 animals we serve a year.

Sincerely,

Meg Stephenson
Executive Director

To the Zion Lutheran Church Family,

I will miss your beautiful sanctuary this Christmas, and the messages offered there from God.

Merry Christmas to all of you, and may your new year bring peace and contentment.

Best wishes,

Jim Soupene

Thank you to Lori Rehm for the beautiful new altar cloths in the Chapel. They are on the altar now for the Christmas season. Stop by and take a look.

Carl and Edna Guckenberger would like to thank everyone for the cards, prayers and gifts they have received. They appreciate all of it.

Thanks to the Women of Zion for the “Bread and Fruit Basket”. It was delicious. The “little church” was really neat. Also thanks for all the cards, prayers, and phone calls this past year and Inas Clark’s visits and giving us Communion. When shut-in of the week card was received, which was signed at the Sunday Service, I really enjoyed reading all the names and notes. A really neat idea.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Jean and Jim Mueller

**Letters of thanks were received from Graceworks, the One Way Farm, Habitat for Humanity, and the Open Door Pantry for donations we have given them. The letters are on the bulletin board outside of the church office.**
MINISTRY IN THE HEART OF NATIONS

Last month I asked you to pray for a Christmas outreach we were planning to have for teenage moms and their babies. Thank you so much! During the party as I shared more about Mary I was surprised when Selena didn’t seem too familiar with her story. I was not surprised though that Marcela, a teen mom who last year was having a conversation of her own while I shared the Christmas message, was this year listening intently with her eyes on mine. It was as if we were in a dialogue and that dialogue has not yet ended! On her way out of the party she grabbed a Bible and put it in her stroller. A few days later we rode the subway together and I taught her how to look up chapters and verses and where to begin reading.

The opportunities to plant the seeds of the gospel are endless! I was reminded of this again tonight when I realized that only about 3 out of 20 teens at my church youth group Christmas party knew what a manger was. Again I am reminded as I minister to a girl and her family who are in an uncertain situation. You see, she recently realized that before she turns 18 she might need to quit high school, leave her family behind and return to a country that she left when she was 9 in order to someday return legally. She told me that she never imagined that her senior year would be like this. She thought it would be normal. Now her future seems to be in the hands of the government. I remind her that her future is in the hands of God.

“Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them” (Psalm 126:6). Thank You Lord, that you have given us seed to sow in this New Year! Thank you my brothers and sisters, for sending me into the harvest. I am so grateful for you!

Until they all hear,

Christy Smith, NYC
Christyerin982@yahoo.com

ELCA MEETINGS

In August, 2009 the Church wide Assembly of the ELCA passed its 10th social statement entitled Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust which required a two thirds majority vote. This has been a controversial issue among churches. As a result a letter was sent to the congregation this week explaining details.

Church council and the ELCA Committee from Zion will have a special meeting on Thursday, January 13 at 6:30 p.m. with Bishop Holloway in attendance. Anyone interested is invited to attend the meeting.

There will be congregational meetings available on several dates in January as well. Please see the letter for more details.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Preschool
Eliana Radler 10x
Abby Purkiser 10x

Makayla Platt 10x

Grades 1-3
Alex Frye 5x
Logan Bartels 5x
Zachary Savage 10x

Melody Conrad 10x
Samantha Bowling 15x
Dale Savage 10x
Adam Bartels 5x
Marissa Lombardi 5x
Avery Purkiser 5x
Ethan Merchant 5x

Have you remembered Zion in your Will?

Life is what we make it. Always has been, always will be.

Grandma Moses
BOOK DONATION

A series of books, The “All” Series by Herbert Lockyer has been donated from Rudy and Ruth Larson. They are in the lounge on the shelves to the right of the fireplace. Please feel free to borrow any you would like to read.

All the Apostles of the Bible
All the Books and Chapters of the Bible
All the Children of the Bible
All the Divine Names and Titles in the Bible
All the Doctrines of the Bible
All the Holy Days and Holidays
All the Kings and Queens of the Bible
All the Men of the Bible
All the Messianic Prophecies of the Bible
All the Miracles of the Bible
All the Parables of the Bible
All the Prayers of the Bible
All the Promises of the Bible
All the Trades and Occupations of the Bible
All the Women of the Bible

DO YOU HAVE EMPTY PRESCRIPTION OR MEDICINE BOTTLES?

WELL, WE HAVE A GOOD USE FOR THEM!

The Women of Zion are collecting empty pill bottles for use in third-world countries. The bottles should be rinsed prescription bottles with the labels removed. Other empty pill bottles also can be brought in – Tylenol, Motrin, etc. Putting a nickel, a dime, or a quarter in some of the bottles helps defray the cost of shipping, but this is not necessary. We’ve filled the tub in the Great Hall many times. Let’s see if we can do it again!

Tails From God

As part of the Tails From God ministry, Zion has a recycling program to benefit the Animal Friends Humane Society. Simply bring in your used printer cartridges, cells phones, toner cartridges, PDAs, and MP3 Players and put them in the recycling box in the church office. They will be packaged, shipped and sent to eCycle Group (www.ecyclegroup.com) and the money given to the Animal Friends Humane Society. This is a wonderful opportunity to be good stewards of God's creation by protecting the environment and the abused and neglected animals in Butler County. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact Karen Conklin, 513-863-0532.

BIGGEST LOSER CHALLENGE

Tuesday, January 4 to March 22, 2011 at 7:00 – 8:30 pm in the gym at Zion. Come work out with a professional trainer every Tuesday for 12 weeks. Only $5 per person per night. Prizes for the biggest losers!!
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
December 14, 2010

- Ron Alcorn, Inas Clark & Dave Schul presented council with additional information to be included with the letter that will be mailed out to Zion’s members. Council suggested a few changes in the information before the letter and info are mailed. Ron agreed to review the changes with the committee and make appropriate changes.

- Dates for informational meetings were reviewed. The dates are January 8 after Saturday service; January 16 between services. And January 23 at 2:00 p.m. A congregational vote will take place in February.

- Motion and passed to accept November Minutes.

- The Nominating Committee is still working on filling two open seats on council: Parish Ed and Andrew.

- Lou Robinson presented November Financial Report. Financial report was accepted.

- Worship & Music: New pencils with Zion’s name have been placed in the pews. Ron Alcorn will be the committee chair for 2011-2012.

- Barb Toman/Social Concerns: The Salvation Army Angel Tree has four names left on it. Barb encouraged council members to consider taking a name. Lori Rehm will be doing communion training in January.

- Lori Rehm/Agape: They sent 31 cards and made 5 visits in November, with 5 more visits to make.

- Phil Pflaumer/Stewardship: So far, 35 “Time and Talent” forms have been received. Pastor Dave told a story he read in The Lutheran about a “reverse collection.” A church gave every member $50 to do whatever they wanted to with it. The church did not hold them accountable for the money. So many parishioners did good things with the money. Some even used the $50 to raise more money that was given to the church. It was suggested that this could be done for “Christmas in July.”

- Linda Herget/Youth: Last Sunday the children who participated in the Christmas Play went to McDonalds for breakfast. A bingo is planned for Saturday, January 15. A committee meeting has been tentatively set for Thursday, January 25. The youth raised $350 with the cookie sale. From this money, $225 was spent on the family they adopted for Christmas.

- Craig Jones/Fellowship: Fitness classes will begin on Tuesday, January 4 and will be held for 12 weeks, through March 22. The class begins at 7:00 p.m. and ends at 8:30 p.m. They are having a “Biggest Loser” contest with prizes. The class includes a training program and also addresses nutrition.

- Mel Less/Public Relations: Cheryl gave his report. He wanted to give credit to Doug Erbeck for all his work promoting Zion. Doug worked diligently with WMOH to get many promotion spots produced and read on the air for our Christmas services. Mel ran an ad on December 9 in the Journal News and Fairfield Echo promoting the Christmas Cantata/Play, the Christmas Eve services and the live broadcast on the internet.

- Jon Bartels/Trustees: Roof leaks have been made, a faucet in the kitchen was replaced, repairs made to the alley doors. Jon plans to contact Kelley & Carpenter Roofing to inspect the roof over the choir room and get an idea how much it would cost to fix it right.

- Mike Ford/Trustees: A flat roof that leaks leads to many costly problems. Mike met with Jim Cooper about the three bells in the steeple. Only one bell is currently working. The original bells were purchased for about $9,900. Today, the replacement cost would be about $300,000. A formal bid for repairs will be gotten.

- On behalf of the Women of Zion, Lori Rehm inquired about having the carpet and pads on the pews cleaned in the sanctuary. The first bid was $2,400. The Women of Zion plan to pay for this, if they get an affordable bid.

- Motion (Kaelin, Bartel) and passed to adjourn the meeting.

### Monthly statistics

**Financial Stewardship (as of November 30, 2010)**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$27,184.56</td>
<td>$31,445.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$22,705.39</td>
<td>$25,351.81</td>
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**YTD Operating Funds**

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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$256,437</td>
<td>$302,395</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>$237,684</td>
<td>$299,037</td>
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**Attendance Averages (December)**

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<td>187</td>
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**Death** (12/16/2010)
Bob Beyer

**Release** (12/14/2010)
John & Jo Ann Roberts
MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Melody Conrad……………………… Recognized as a November “Regal Ram” at Ross Middle School.
Randy Runyon……………………….. Miami’s carillonneur played Pulley Tower Concert on December 5.
Zion Lutheran Church……………… Recognized by the Salvation Army for our participation in the Angel Tree program.

For complete articles, check the bulletin board. Anyone having information or articles concerning activities or achievements of Zion members are asked to drop them off at the church office or give them to Shirley Kaelin.

PLEASE NOTE: When paying for flowers which you ordered for the church, please DO NOT include it with your offering. Please put the flower money or check in a separate envelope, clearly marked as flower payment, and include your name. This can then be put in the offering plate, or given to Julia. Thank you for your cooperation.

Also, please return any plastic containers that the flowers come in, including pedestal flowers. We return them to Flower Corner to be reused. Thanks.

The mission of Zion is to

Encourage
a growing faith in Jesus Christ and to

Equip
all people for witness and service.

NORTHERN LIGHTS EMMAUS WALKS
AND FLIGHTS

Men's Emmaus Walks
# 29 April 7 - 10, 2011 at Christ United Methodist Church, Middletown, OH New!
# 30 September 22 - 25, 2011 at Camp Lebanon, Oregonia, OH

Women's Emmaus Walks
# 34 May 12 - 15, 2011 at Christ United Methodist Church, Middletown, OH New!
# 35 September 29 - October 2, 2011 at Camp Lebanon, Oregonia, OH

Boys' Chrysalis Flights
# 10 February 19 - 21, 2011 at Lebanon United Methodist Church, Lebanon, OH.

Girls' Chrysalis Flights
# 13 January 15 - 17, 2011 at Lebanon United Methodist Church, Lebanon, OH.
WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR JANUARY

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<td>January 2</td>
<td>Julie Allen</td>
<td>Maria Sharratt</td>
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<td>January 9</td>
<td>Tristan Lauer</td>
<td>Jared Smith</td>
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<td>January 16</td>
<td>Patrick Huston</td>
<td>Allison Sears</td>
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<td>January 23</td>
<td>Malachi Herget</td>
<td>Matthew Davidson</td>
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<td>January 30</td>
<td>Nick Lauer</td>
<td>Nicholas Lombardi</td>
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Altar Guild: Laura Sharratt, Karla Schmidt  
Ushers: Bill Thomin & team (8:00)  
Volunteers Needed (10:30)

Lectors:  
Jan 2 Peggy Thomin (8:00); Lori Rehm (10:30)  
Jan 9 Anita Snyder (8:00); Tom Wright (10:30)  
Jan 16 Mike Heitz (8:00); Jenna Landers (10:30)  
Jan 23 Greg Allen (8:00); Thelma Martin (10:30)  
Jan 30 Gayle Ford (8:00); Phil Pflaumer (10:30)

Greeters:  
Jan 2 Peggy Thomas (8:00); Joyce & Erich Wittig (10:30)  
Jan 9 Jim & Mary Truett (8:00); Lori Rehm (10:30)  
Jan 16 JoAnette Coe (8:00); Joe & Joni Copas (10:30)  
Jan 23 Clarence & Tillie Adams (8:00); George & Janis Reed (10:30)  
Jan 30 Ron & Kay Erbeck (8:00); Volunteer needed (10:30)

Kitchen Cleanup: June Niederman

Elders:  
Jan 2 Craig Jones (8:00); Lori Rehm (10:30)  
Jan 16 Anita Snyder (8:00); Carolyn Soupene (10:30)

Eucharist:  
Jan 2 Tillie Adams (8:00); Phil Pflaumer (10:30)

Assists:  
Jan 16 Ingrid Sanders (8:00); Donna Wolfe (10:30)

Radio:  
Jan 2 Greg Conrad  
Jan 9 Lou Robinson  
Jan 16 Ron Alcorn  
Jan 23 Charles Kaelin  
Jan 30 Greg Allen

Bulletin:  
Jan 7 Inas Clark  
Jan 14 Barb & Tom Toman

Offering:  
Jan 2 Bill Carpenter, Vicki Wheeler

Counters:  
Jan 9 Brenda Savage, Bill Carpenter  
Jan 16 Ken Gerold  
Jan 23 Don Keck  
Jan 30

Zion Lutheran Church radio broadcast is now streaming live on the internet. Go to www.WHOH.com and click on the listen live button or go to www.zionhamilton.org to link to the broadcast. Now you can take Zion with you when you’re away from home.
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