

# THE ZION HERALD

Proclaiming Good News

September 2019

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR ZION

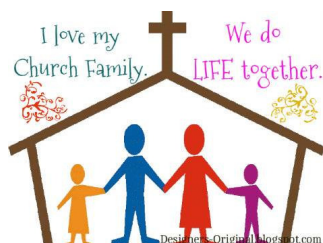


### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1: LABOR DAY WEEKEND

- WORSHIP AT 8:00 AM AND 10:30 AM

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8: ZION COMMUNITY PICNIC

- SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS AT 9:15 AM FOR ALL AGES
- COMBINED WORSHIP AT 10:30 AM
- THE ZION COMMUNITY PICNIC BEGINS AT 11:30 AM
- LOTS OF DELICIOUS FOOD AND GAMES



### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

- WORSHIP AT 8:00 AM AND 10:30 AM
- SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:15 AM FOR ALL AGES

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

- WORSHIP AT 8:00 AM AND 10:30 AM
- SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:15 AM FOR ALL AGES



### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29—BLANKET SUNDAY



- WORSHIP AT 8:00 AM AND 10:30AM
- SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:15 AM FOR ALL AGES

## Pastor's Ponderings

It's been a month already! A month of worship services together. A month of working together on mission. A month of gathering together for meals and meetings. A month of your reading my short statements in the weekly News Page. A month since I wrote to you last about my ponderings. How is it going for you?

In my August ponderings, I proposed that we spend time together considering two questions proposed by a former bishop of mine:

1. Why in God's name does Zion exist?
2. What is God calling us to do for Christ's sake?

I went on to list five things I was pondering and invited you to share with me your thoughts. This month, I'm spending time pondering the first one: "What will we do together to bring excitement and enthusiasm to our worship?"

Some things I've noticed and pondered:

- Each week we have another child or two as part of the children's sermon. How can we keep the excitement going with these children? How can we make the worship space comfortable for them? How can we help them be an important participant in the whole worship time?
- Each week, I hear more laughter and enthusiasm during worship. Is God moving in joy with us as we sing? Is God encouraged by our liveliness? Does our delight in worship inspire and help others?
- Each week you are opening up more in response and dialogue during my sermons. I realize some may be uncomfortable and others enthusiastically embracing this interaction. I ponder how we can delve deeper into hearing and absorbing the truth that God loves us beyond measure?
- Each week we have a new mix of people in worship; some are missing, some are returning after a prolonged absence, and some are blessing us with their presence for the first time. How can we let people know we're not the same when they aren't here? How can we encourage people to give us a try – maybe even more than once? How can we be emboldened to invite these people to eat with us after worship?

What do you ponder? What are your thoughts about the above? Please share them with me. I really want to hear from you. Bring your enthusiasm and ideas, for we will do great things through God who strengthens us.

Graciously, Pr. William

## Message from the President:

Things are getting exciting at Zion. Pastor William has had some great opening messages for us. Pastor has reminded us of our purpose here, and what Jesus has asked us to do. The council members are going to be asking you to join us at a cottage gathering. We are going to be getting 4-6 people together at an informal setting with Pastor William to get to know each other better and to discuss our future. Here are a few questions to think about for the gathering.

What would you like to see us stop doing at Zion?  
 What would you like to see us do differently at Zion?  
 What would you like to see us start doing here at Zion?

We need everyone's input and help to get Zion on track doing the Work of Jesus. So please say yes when a council member ask you to come to a cottage gathering.

Just a reminder that Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> is our community picnic. Please bring your family and friends to worship with us and then join us for the picnic. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

God's Peace and Blessings be with you all,

Darlene K Milavickas

## CARING MINISTRY

Your Zion Food Pantry served 153 people from 100 households during the month of July. The client breakdown was as follows: 32 children (0-17), 47 adults (18-59), and 74 seniors (age 60+). This information comes from the required Monthly Statistical Report for Akron Canton Regional Foodbank.

The dates for the September Food Pantry and Clothing Closet are the 3rd and the 17th. Set up time is at 9:00 am with the doors opening at 1:00 pm.

**FOOD PANTRY** needs cereal, spaghetti sauce, crunchy peanut butter, jelly (any flavor except grape), canned fruit (especially canned pineapple), variety pack of flavored instant oatmeal, and soups of all kinds (except tomato).

**CLOTHING CLOSET** is in need of household items such as; bath towels, hand towels, tea towels, dishes, pots, pans, etc.

Remember to contact Kay Davis, stitchandsewk810@sbcglobal.net, if you have any prayer requests.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

G. Scott Gross

## LEARNING MINISTRY

September 8 is the start of our Sunday School

classes for the year. Jeff Hissong's adult Sunday School class will continue with the topic of "Sola Scriptura" and the books of the New Testament with a continued concentration on Paul's epistles. He will start with the book of Colossians. If you haven't attended one of Jeff's classes, please join him in Luther Hall for a very informative study of God's word.

Janet Slease  
 Learning Ministry

## RESOURCE MINISTRY

### "State of the Congregation 8/19/2019"

Have you seen it? Can you feel it? It is obvious and evident, even though it has happened in a very short elapsed time. It has been evident in Pastor William's initial impassioned sermons, even though he has expressed concerns about the difficulty of the topics. It is evident in the attitudes and enthusiasm of the congregation during the exchanging of The Peace, and the personal conversations before, after and between services. The Holy Spirit is definitely present in Zion! The Spirit may be initiating in some, being re-kindled in others, or being multiplied in the most ardent, but it is igniting sparks of energy that may have potential to be combined or coalesced into a functioning resource power plant, Zion Ministry Power, to improve the efficiency, scope and the positive impact of our selected and resourced ministries. A

source of optimism, but now we must do something with it.

**So how are we doing financially today?** As of July 31, our Operating Income (Revenue-Expenses) for July was -\$25.18 which followed June performance of -\$375.66. The fact that these numbers are negative means that all our revenue during this time was used for our continuing operations or current congregational support. We had some extraordinary expenses which were completed to improve our infrastructure, we did a good job to accomplish this in a fiscally responsible manner, but at the end of the day we had nothing left to contribute to our free cash flow which could be used to fund increased ministry plans or aspirations. We are executing in a frugal manner, efficiently and effectively supporting current operations, but not generating sufficient resources to consider doing anything else.

If we consider Operating Income YTD, the result is \$4,217.66. The fact that it is positive is a very good thing, indicating that we have been fiscally responsible adding to our available resources, but the fact that it is only 3.9% of our Revenue YTD confirms that it is presently not enough to consider a substantive change in our operating behavior by adding or expanding support for any ministry. In other words, we are operating in a “maintain mode”, maintaining the status quo, continuing to do what we’ve been doing.

**Step forward one day to August 1.** It is the dawn of a new era, one in which God answered our call by providing Zion access to a very important resource. That resource, Pastor William, answered our call, and we unanimously agreed to approve him as our pastor with a mutual expressed desire and expectation that we did not want to continue the status quo. No, we wanted to capitalize on this opportunity to embrace the potential to change our behavior and explore the options to plan and execute increases in the vitality and size/scope of existing ministry operations or selected addition of others, all with an expectation we will do it in a fiscally responsible manner which we have demonstrated we can do when we have the correct revenue profile to fund our activity. If you want to effect a change in a well-established process, you need a catalyst or change agent to stimulate the change. Pastor William is our catalyst.

This investment has an associated cost profile which adds to our operating budget which must now be considered in our Operating Budget. This

increased Expense Budget will now be the financial basis for our assessment of congregation financial health and effectiveness starting 8/1. The simple arithmetic of Operating Income = Revenues – Expenses tells us that if our Expenses increase, our Revenues must increase by a comparable amount or we go backwards instead of forward. We will be monitoring and communicating the monthly financial results with great anticipation to see how our resource profile responds considering the potential energy which is available and how it will be supplied.

The initial Revenue results for August were extremely positive; indicating that the Holy Spirit is indeed at work. We will see how the month closes. This will be the initial data point for assessment of our financial vitality. We will need several months of operating results to establish our trends and be able to effectively communicate our degree of success in this new operating environment.

We are all stewards with an opportunity and obligation to positively impact the financial vitality of the congregation; every one of us can contribute to the successful achievement of our endeavors to the extent that you are able to invest in our future. All can add their energy and resources to our Power Plant to achieve our congregation vision, goals and objectives. You can and you will make a difference to insure our Power Plant of resources is the appropriate size, efficiency and effectiveness to power our community grid connections.

For us to be successful in this new era, we will also need to be more efficient and effective in the strategic planning of our operations to insure our vision, goals and objectives for Today (1 year), Tomorrow (3 year) and future (5+). When we have established the “What/Why/How/When” for ministry operations, we need to make sure that we are continually evaluating and improving the effectiveness of them. The P-D-C-A cycle of process quality continuous improvement is recommended.

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C-A  
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stands



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for

Plan→Do→Check→Act and it is a simple mechanism to “Plan the Work and Work the Plan”, insuring processes realize their full potential to become efficient and effective. Don’t just take the time and effort to plan and begin execution of the process, but also determine how we are going to measure the efficiency and effectiveness against our intended objectives. Be sure to monitor the results and determine if we are meeting our objectives. If we aren’t, decide what must change, develop and implement actions to improve, and repeat. Refining until we have a highly effective process that accomplishes our objectives. The process doesn’t have to be complicated; it is a method to insure we are “Working the Plan” and effectively utilizing our resources.

**Thanks for taking the time to read this message. If you have, you understand that we aren’t waiting to embrace change, it has already happened! Now we need to make sure that we have the most appropriate Operating Model, with access to the necessary resources to enable us to be successful.**

**Can you see it? Can you feel it? With you and the Holy Spirit we will have the energy resources to power the Zion Power Plant. Help us turn on the lights!**

Respectfully,  
John Rhodes  
Resource Ministry

## WITNESS MINISTRY

We are meeting this week with a Web site guru to explore ways to create a more effective digital outreach to build on the first steps we have made in

the last couple of years. Keep an eye on the site to find new content.

Check out the Facebook page as well @zionlutheranchurch. Like us so we come higher on people’s searches. By the time you get the Newsletter we are likely to have pictures from the End of Summer Party!

Yours in Service  
Mark Votaw

## WORSHIP MINISTRY

### New Experiences in Worship

As we were meeting this past week, we discussed new ways to experience God’s presence in our worship service and fellowship gatherings. We discussed some exciting new ideas for this coming Advent season as well as for All Saints Day and Christmas Eve services. If you have some favorite hymns or an idea to explore regarding music and worship, feel free to reach out to me or anyone on our committee. We look forward to hearing from you.

Brian Walters  
Worship Ministry

## WOMEN OF ZION

Comfort Givers—Please Note—Blanket Sunday will be Sunday, September 29, 2019. Lutheran World Relief prefers blankets be approximately the same size, 60” x 80”. Twin sizes can also be used.

Also, LWR is one week earlier this year, so we must have everything ready (comforts and blankets) for church display on Sunday, September 29th.

Packing of boxes will be on Thursday, October 3, 2019. We will need some extra help from our faithful “Retirement Crew”.

A truck directly from LWR will be in the Jerusalem Lutheran Church parking lot in Seville, Ohio. The dates are Saturday, October 5th, from 9am to 4 pm and Sunday, October 6th, from 1pm to 4pm. The truck then goes to the LWR warehouse in New Windsor, Maryland.

**Volunteers** are needed to take the packed boxes by a pick-up or SUV. It depends on the number of boxes we have.

Thanks so much for your cooperation.

In His Service,

Betty Tracy

**ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS IN JULY 2019**

July Income	\$ 15,485.51
Income through July	\$109,502.29
July Expenses	\$ 15,510.69
Expenses through July	\$105,284.63
<b>July Deficit</b>	<b>-\$ 25.18</b>
<b>2019 YTD Surplus</b>	<b>\$ 4,217.66</b>

*We thank you for your generous support!*

**To All My Friends at Zion,**

Thank You for coming to my birthday party and for the gifts and hugs.

Also to Darlene Milavickas, Thank You for helping "the kids". You made their job so much easier.

Bless You All,  
Juanita Bathol

**A Tribute to Carol Rossbach**

After 20 some years with her Zion church family, Carol will be leaving us to move to Cleveland, Georgia but, her journey with us at Zion will always be on the forefront.

She has shown her commitment of serving her Lord and congregation in many ways. In leadership service on church council as President, Vice-President, and as a delegate to the annual Synod meeting held in June. As a Sunday School teacher, Vacation Bible School teacher, helper, crafts, and other artistry.

Her true artistry shows in her assistance with designs and colors for the five beautiful stain-glass windows. The symbol paintings of the church's seasonal worship and festival days and weeks. She enjoyed singing in the choir, was Chancel Guild member and assistant, coordinated a coloring class for those interested, then joined the Comfort Givers to make beautiful tops. She has worked and established many other aspects of member friendships. Carol will be missed. May she find many blessings in her new adventure of life.

A Friend

## News from the Zion Sunday School

### Upcoming Events – Mark your calendars!

**Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>: Rally Day & Start of 2019-20 Sunday School Year at 9:15 am**

**Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>: Zion Community Picnic**

**Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>: Youth Missions Fall Craft Show 10 am – 4 pm**

### RALLY DAY & NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR

Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> is Rally Day and the kick off to our new Sunday School year! We will begin at 9:15 in Youth Hall with some refreshments and then explore the church on a scavenger hunt. We invite all of our youth to join us on the 8<sup>th</sup> for the start of a great new year! We are always looking for new volunteers to help with leading our Sunday School classes and activities, especially at the High School level. It is always great to have new and fresh ideas for our program. If you are interested in being a teacher, a classroom helper or a substitute for any of our grades (Pre-K thru 12), please contact Debbie Fox at (330) 966-2433. It is such a rewarding and enjoyable opportunity to share God's love and His Word with Zion's Youth!



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

To start of our Sunday School Year, we will have more “wild” lessons as a follow up to our VBS safari theme that include Bible stories, crafts, games and more. The year will also include Christmas and Easter Programs, a Halloween activity, service projects at Thanksgiving and Christmas and other fun activities! Our children's classes are for kids age 3 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Connie Riffle and Janet Slease will be leading our classes for this age group. We are excited about these lessons and are looking forward to a year full of fun and learning – see you on September 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am!

### Confirmation Class

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

### High School

Our High School class will also start Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 am. Our focus will be service projects, discussions on topics our kids are facing and helping our younger youth this year! We encourage all of our High School students to join us on our scheduled Sunday mornings and look forward to seeing them!

### OUR PRAYER AND SUPPORT WALL

Thank you for all your support for our Prayer and Support Wall this summer. It was a great success! We were able to collect the following for the charities we supported: Zion's Food Pantry - \$92, The Humane Society - \$159, Wernle Youth & Family Treatment Center - \$110 and Wishes Can Happen - \$109. We are



so grateful for the generous support of our Zion Family! You can still add prayer tags to our wall. The tags are located in the Narthex. Thank you again for all of your support!

## FALL “OKTOBERFEST” YOUTH MISSIONS CRAFT SHOW NEWS

Looking ahead to October, the Craft Show will be here before we know it. We plan to start on the youth's projects this month. We will again put together raffle baskets from the Sunday School classes. The



children will receive the basket themes on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> during Sunday School. We would like all items to be donated for the baskets by Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. Tickets for these baskets will go on sale in October on Sunday mornings. All of our youth will be asked to donate items for any of the themed baskets. For each donated item, a child will receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win one of the baskets or one of the raffle items at the Craft Show. This year's themed baskets are: ***Ohio State Fan Basket, Chocolate Delights Basket, and Lottery Ticket Basket.*** We are so grateful for any and all donations to these baskets.

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

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

The Craft Show will take place on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. This is a great event at Zion that helps our youth program, and we need lots of help to make it a success. There will be sign up sheets in Luther Hall in late September for volunteers, bake sale items and other food we will need. We encourage everyone to help out if possible. We really appreciate your support of Zion's youth!

## ACME RECEIPTS

It's that time of year again! We are collecting Acme receipts again this year to support Zion's Youth. This year Acme's Community Cash Back Program has already started and runs from August 8, 2019 through December 28, 2019. A collection jar is located in the Narthex. Please bring in your Acme receipts dated between August 8<sup>th</sup> and December 28<sup>th</sup>. Thanks for your support!!!



## Mission Interpretation

I have covered some of the Lutheran Disaster Response in earlier articles. This month as I was digging through the ELCA website I followed some of the hunger links. I found the following stark statistics:

- 821 million people around the world - that's more than 1 in 10 - can't access the food they need to live active, healthy lives.
- At some point in 2017 (the most recent year available), more than 40 million people in the United States were unsure where their next meal might come from.
- In Stark County Ohio 59,000 people, 1 in 4 children struggle with food insecurity.

Through ELCA World Hunger, the church is hard at work. They have projects around the world. The green dots on the map are hunger projects. The orange dots are Disaster Response.

### ELCA World Hunger's Mission statement:

The world provides enough food for all, but more than 800 million people around the world face chronic hunger.

We believe in a God of abundance, so as a church, we live out our call in baptism to strive for a just world where all are fed. ELCA World Hunger is this church at work. We walk alongside our partners and companions in the United States and more than 60 other countries. Generating unique solutions to local challenges starts by listening to our neighbors and communities. Then, together, we work and serve to help break the cycle of hunger and poverty — for good.



Here at Zion we serve approximately 50 folks every two weeks. Cathy Harvey and her dedicated crew provide groceries, a warm meal and fellowship. If you want to be a more active part of the solution contact Cathy, or the Akron Canton Food Bank. Support ELCA World Hunger (Online at <https://elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/ELCA-World-Hunger>) or consider gifts from the Good Gifts Catalog (<https://goodgifts.elca.org>). A flock of chickens and the education to keep them can radically change a family's situation.

The ELCA website has tons of resources around hunger, social justice and world disaster relief. Take some time to see Your Church in Action. You will be proud to be a part of the important work going on to bring Jesus to the world. The ELCA is roughly 3.4 Million members in more than 9000 congregations. Together we can be a powerful force for good.

### Mini-Mission Targets:



Several newsletters ago I asked for mission targets. People, programs, causes that need help. We are actively looking for places to get Zioners involved. I will do the legwork. But I need you to identify folks who need a hand. You will never feel more powerful as a Christian than when you are serving someone else. I felt it in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. I have not heard from anyone with ideas but I am not going away. Send me your shut-ins, your abused animals, your hungry and your persecuted. Lets find a way to reach out.

Yours in Mission  
Mark Votaw

<sup>1</sup>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2018 <http://www.fao.org/state-of-food-security-nutrition/en/>

<sup>2</sup>USDA, 2018 <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/>

<sup>3</sup>Stark County Hunger Task Force <http://starkhunger81.wpengine.com/stark-county-statistics/>

# Measuring God's Love

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,  
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.  
John 3:16 (NIV)

Based on John 3:14-17 (NIV)



P T F V E L F M H H M F H B N  
O T J E Z O S D C C T O Z I U  
U I F I D V N N X O W M M O M  
Y I G I Z E H N A R N S A V E  
L N F L S D A H N K R D F I Q  
T L D E S E R T Y V E O E B Y  
H P I I B E L I E V E S V M J  
R W D F G Q J C Z X U G K K N  
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U N V R V E B T Y U O V J E W  
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G X L S N X S N R B O T H S Y  
M O O D L Z G A H H T Z T H R  
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SON  
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DESERT  
ETERNAL  
GOD

WHOEVER  
LIFTED  
LIFE  
SAVE

# **ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**349 Lindy Lane NW, North Canton, 330-499-3909**

**Date: *Saturday October 19, 2019***

*The Craft Show: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.*

*German Dinners: 11:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.*

## **ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

### **FALL**

### **“OKTOBERFEST”**

### **YOUTH MISSIONS**

**GERMAN-STYLE TAKEOUT DINNERS** are available for \$8.00. Choose Bratwurst with sauerkraut and German potato salad or Apple Cider Roast Pork with spaetzle. Enjoy the meal yourself or donate a dinner to families in need.

**Prize Drawings**  
**Concessions Area**  
**“Themed” Basket Raffle**  
**Bake Sale**

Crafter space is available for \$35.00 per 8 foot table

Zion Lutheran Church  
349 Lindy Lane NW  
North Canton, OH 44720  
An ELCA Congregation

Non-Profit Organization  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
Canton, Ohio  
Permit No. 2094

**Worship Services**

Sunday Morning: 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship  
Sunday Morning: 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service

**Sunday School Classes**

(Adult Discussion) 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.  
(Classes: All Ages) 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

**Church Office Hours**

Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Pastor: The Rev. William Weidenbach, Jr. 850-766-5853  
Church Council President: Darlene Milavickas 330-412-4336  
Church Office Secretary: Vicki Givler 330-499-3909  
Church Office Secretary E-Mail: vicki.givler@yahoo.com  
Praise Team Leader: Suzanne Walters 330-497-8996  
Christian Ed. Director: Debbie Fox 330-966-2433  
Chancel Flowers: Vicki Givler 330-499-3909  
Church Office Fax Number 330-499-0801  
Prayer Chain: Kay Davis 330-494-6267  
Prayer Chain: Email stitchandsewk810@sbcglobal.net

***www.ZionEvangelicalLutheranChurch.org***

