THE ZION HERALD

Proclaiming Good News

November 2019



DATES TO REMEMBER IN NOVEMBER AT ZION



- * SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3: REMEMBERING THE SAINTS
 - Sounding a Note of Hope and Remembrance for All the Saints
- **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10: REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS**Celebrating the Service of OUR VETERANS
- * TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19: GREAT THANKSGIVING GIVE-AWAY Zion's Food Pantry hosts "Our Great Thanksgiving Give-Away" 1 p.m. 2 p.m.
- **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24: CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY**Christ is King and Jesus is Lord: Yesterday, Today, and Forever!
- * THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28: HAPPY THANKSGIVING
 Now Thank We All Our God with Hearts and Hands and Voices!
- ***** SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1: THE NEW YEAR BEGINS!

The New Church Year Begins with the Arrival of the Advent Season Our Sunday Evening Advent Dinner & Worship begins at 5:30 p.m.

Pastor's Ponderings

November 2019

For me, November conjures up ponderings about Fall, Saints and Thanksgiving.

Oh how I love Fall. It's a time of fabulous color, leaves on the lawn, crispness in the air, harvest of the crops and a time of rest and renewal for the land.

God created us to be fruitful and multiply, but God also commands us to rest and lay fallow so that we can be rejuvenated and restored. So in Fall I rejuvenate by enjoying God's creative splendor while accumulating the plethora of leaves to use as mulch around my trees and plantings, and add into my compost bin; thus rejuvenating creation too.

• How will you use Fall as a time of spiritual and physical renewal?

In the beginning of November, we remember the saints who have joined the Church Triumphant. It is said that when someone we love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure. People are such a treasure in our lives; this All Saints time I choose to remind the people in my life that they are my current treasures.

• I pray that you can rejoice in the joys you shared with your loved ones, as you choose to forgive any not so joyful times.

November closes out with Thanksgiving. There is so much in my life for which I am thankful; my Dear Linda, my family spread across this country and the world, my new hometown, God's love in my life, and the ability to be your pastor.

• Do you have much for which to be thankful? How will you express your thanks, and to whom?

In the midst of what is to become a busy holiday season, please make time to enjoy each day. Spend time thinking of loved ones, remaining present with people in your midst, and gently treating each person you encounter.

I give thanks to God for all you wonderful people.

Graciously, Pr. William

Message from President:

We are here because God chose us to be here. We are here to receive the Word and Sacrament, and to be stewards of God's given estate. Everything we have is God's. We need to look beyond our own needs and see the plight of others as Christ does. The apostle Paul says that if we turn our attention toward others, we will see our own difficulties melt away.

God loves us just the way we are, but refuses to leave us that way. God wants us to be like Christ and to tell the story of Christ's love. The best way to show Christ's love is by doing. As God changes us, the church changes too. So be ready to grow and expand as we change to become more like Christ and act out our mission statement: to grow in love and service by grace. We need to think of different things we can be doing for others in the community, and the different ways Zion can grow.

Remember we need to keep the doors of communication open. Please let me know your ideas and feelings on things. My phone number is 330-412-4336.

God's Peace and Blessings be with you all, Darlene

CARING MINISTRY

Your Zion Food Pantry served 135 people from 80 households during the month of September. The client breakdown was as follows: 20 children {0-17}, 51 adults (18-59), and 64 seniors (age 60+). The numbers come from the required Monthly Statistical Report for Akron Canton Regional Foodbank.

The Caring Ministry is still developing a list of drivers for both early and late services who could occasionally pick up senior members that normally drive themselves, but feel that they should not drive on a particular Sunday. We currently have two groups of drivers that pick up members at two facilities as requested. If you are interested, please contact Vicki Givler at the church office.

November 5th and 19th will be the dates for our next Food Pantry and Clothing Closet. As usual the set-up time is 9:00 am with the doors opening at 1:00 pm for those in need. Please let Cathy Harvey know if you're available to help. There still is a need for cereal, spaghetti sauce, crunchy peanut butter, jelly (any flavor except grape), canned (especially canned fruit pineapple), vegetables, hot cereal such as individually packaged flavored instant oatmeal, and creamed soups of all kinds (no tomato soup), stuffing mix, boxed mashed potatoes, and turkey gravy. The Clothing Closet is in need of all sizes of boys and girls clothing, including coats and jackets. Don't forget household items.

Please contact Kay Davis with any Prayer Requests at stitchandsewk810@sbcglobal.net also let her know if you would like a Prayer Request removed.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT,

G. Scott Gross

LEARNING MINISTRY

Adult Sunday School Class: In October, Jeff's class has continued with a study of Paul's epistles and his writings to the Colossians as well as his first letter to the Thessalonians. Paul continues to express his love for Christ and how these two groups may grow as new churches in their service to the Lord. These scriptures were discussed in detail in preparation for Paul's second letter to the

Thessalonians which will begin in November. Jeff's class continues to grow in numbers and we thank him for his inspirational teaching!

Youth Sunday School Class: We welcome Susan Whalen, who has joined our Sunday School staff, and is teaching the younger children. Our youth had fun with dipping the chocolates to sell at the Craft Show. They also assisted with setting up and tearing down for the Craft Show, and delivering lunches to crafters. Their help is so much appreciated! In November, we will be decorating the Thanksgiving bags for the Pantry families and Siffrin.

Peace be with you, Janet Slease

RESOURCE MINISTRY

September was the 2nd month of the new Zion operating budget which includes Pastor William as our catalyst for Pastoral Ministry. Our monthly Operating Income ("OI" = Revenue-Expenses) was -\$4,616.10 which pushes our YTD OI to -\$10,079.38. The September monthly revenue increased 12.5% compared to 2018 levels which is a very positive signal; the monthly deficit was reduced, but remains insufficient to offset our expenses at this point. Increased stewardship is a requirement to eliminate this deficit to maintain the "long-term" congregation financial vitality.

As we prepared the 2020 Budget, we planned for continued frugal utilization of our available financial resources and a substantial increase in revenue to offset increases in expenses to support our congregation ministries. We have a strong investment portfolio, but we cannot deplete it to fund excessive deficit spending. We must improve our revenue stream with increased stewardship from the congregation and re-double our efforts to grow the congregation.

To facilitate our revenue growth, electronic giving is being evaluated by the Finance Committee as a vehicle to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our stewardship. Please insure that you have participated in the survey to establish your potential utilization of this alternative means of contribution.

We know we can insure that Zion is on solid

financial footing to accomplish our desired ministerial plans with your efforts, God's support and the Holy Spirit to inspire us all. Help us "turn on the lights" of community ministry.

Faithfully yours, John Rhodes Resource Ministry

SOCIAL MINISTRY

This month's Social Ministry report centers on a summary of the recent Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) assembly. This event brings members together for one week every three years to discern and make decisions on the future while living our mission: Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly and serve joyfully.

Gathering under the theme "We are church," more than 900 voting members met August 5-10 at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee for the 15th ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Several historic decisions were made including the reelection of Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. She is the first ELCA presiding bishop to be reelected on a first ballot.

Other major decisions included adopting the "Faith, Sexism and Justice" social statement, endorsing a policy statement for the church's interreligious relations, approving a strategy for the ELCA to exhibit racial and ethnic diversity, declared the ELCA a sanctuary denomination and naming ordination as the entrance rite for Ministers of Word and Service.

The following paragraphs are from Bishop Eaton's "We are to be bold" monthly message on the churchwide assembly in the most recent Living Lutheran magazine.

"One of the gifts the Lutheran movement offers to the world is the clear declaration that the word of God is both law and gospel, judgement and promise. Martin Luther had a very conservative view of the human nature, recognizing our brokenness, rebellion and sin. We all stand under God's judgement. Did we get it all right at the assembly? Probably not. Where we were in error, may God correct us. But the word's promise is that we are forgiven and redeemed. We are freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbor.

The actions taken in Milwaukee were based on our scriptural and confessional understanding of who God chooses to be for us, especially and most clearly in Jesus crucified and risen for the life of the world. We believe that God desires abundant life for all, that all people are created equally in the image of God, that we are commanded to welcome the stranger and care for children. And we are to be bold". Well said Bishop Eaton!

The ELCA will be publishing more details on the actions taken in the near future. In the meantime, if you would like more information see the most recent Living Lutheran magazine in the Narthex or go online to Livinglutheran.org.

Laura Thompson Social Ministry

WITNESS MINISTRY

Greeters wanted!!

We are looking for folks who would be willing to greet folks as they come in. I know, Ushers are doing that already. We want to pay special attention to folks that are visiting. Ushers are welcome! We are working on a process to recognize new folks, get them some information and make them feel welcome. We need some folks from each service who are comfortable



reaching out a hand to a stranger and saying, "I am glad you are here."

Please let me know if you are willing to serve in this critical outreach mission. You can e-mail me at mavnav123@gmail.com or call 330-949-6114.

Yours In Christ, Mark Votaw

WORSHIP & MUSIC

We will be doing something a little different this year called "Holden Evening Prayer".

Holden Evening Prayer

Marty Haugen is a prolific liturgical composer, has written numerous worship services for many

denominations, most especially for the Lutheran and Roman Catholic Community.

Written in the winter of 1986 while Marty was the musician-in-residence at Holden Village, a Lutheran retreat center in the North Cascade Mountains in Washington State, this lovely setting of vespers follows the traditional form while using contemporary and inclusive language.

We hope everyone will join us for the services to be held on Sunday evenings starting with dinner at 5:30 pm and service at 6:15 pm. Advent services are December 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd.

Brian Walters Worship Ministry Elder

COMFORT GIVERS

Comfort Givers would like to express their appreciation to all who helped pack the comforts and blankets for the LWR shipment; Darlene, Debbie, Linda, Clarence, Carl, Richard, George, and Dave.

After they were all stuffed snugly in the cartons, taped securely, and marked for destination, Mark Votaw was happy to transport 57 Comforts and 23 New Blankets in 18 cartons to Jerusalem Lutheran in Seville, Ohio. He remarked that this would keep him out of trouble that Saturday. Mark, a BIG THANKS for giving your Saturday, mileage, and Your Love of helping in so many ways.

After the LWR truck left Seville, it would travel through the Eastern States picking up other shipments. Finally arriving at the LWR building

in Baltimore, Maryland on the Inner Harbor.

The Quilt Plaza in front of the building opened in September 1999. Within the area you would find pictures drawn by children of the Third World Countries, The International (Global) Gift Shop, and



displays of sewing memorabilia.

Entrance to the building is made up of **bricks** donated by ELCA sewing groups from all over the states. Our sewing member, Joyce Gibeaut, toured and visited to find Zion's



Comfort Givers brick. So our work, along with many other church women is recognized there, showing our love and desire to serve others. Let us give thanks for the opportunity to serve in this manner.

In His Service, Betty Tracy

ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS IN SEPTEMBER 2019

September Income	\$ 15,273.50
Income through September	\$141,629.75
September Expenses	\$ 19,889.60
Expenses through September	\$151,709.13

September Deficit -\$ 4,616.10 2019 YTD Surplus \$ 4,129.03

We thank you for your generous support!

NOVEMBER SENIOR BIRTHDAYS

November 7 Sandra Hilson November 11 Carl Geib November 12 Dean Yoder November 14 Wayne Snyder November 14 Orrin Bose November 23 John Brokloff November 25 Margaret Leffler November 27 Ruth Elsass

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

November 11 Elaine & Jim Fidler November 26 Terri & Randy Cizek

BOOK OF THE MONTH: Interested in reading a fictional (though likely realistic) account of refugees in today's world? We're going to get together at 10am on Thursday, November 7th to discuss "The Beekeeper of Aleppo." Contact Linda Weidenbach at 850-766-5640 or e-mail at lindakjw@gmail.com.

News from Zion's Youth



Happy Birthday to:

Jeremy Fox - November 6th

Upcoming Events – Mark your calendars!

Sunday, November 17th: Thanksgiving Service Project for all youth during Sunday School Sunday, November 17th: Our Giving Tree will be up in the Narthex

Saturday, November 23rd: Service Event - Akron Canton Regional Foodbank 8:30-11:30 am Saturday, December 14th: Dress Rehearsal for Children's Christmas Program & Pizza Party

Sunday, December 15th: The Children's Christmas Program during 10:30 service

Sunday School Pre-K thru High School

November and December are going to be very busy months for Zion's youth. We will continue normal Sunday School lessons at 9:15 each Sunday. We will also start practicing for this Christmas Program at the end of November. We will have reading and non-reading parts for all of our youth this year from ages 3 through High School. We look forward to another great program along with the important lessons they will continue to learn during the Sunday School Hour. This is a great time of the year for Zion's Sunday School children! The Christmas Program will be performed at the 10:30 service on Sunday, December 15th. We will have dress rehearsal, our Christmas Pizza Party and wrapping of the Giving Tree gifts on Saturday, December 14th.

Thanksgiving Projects

All of our youth, ages 3 through High School will be working on our traditional Thanksgiving service projects during Sunday School this month along with some special Thanksgiving lessons. The kids will be making specially decorated Thanksgiving bags and cards on Sunday November 3rd and 10th for Siffrin residents and the Food Pantry to deliver holiday meals. We will then fill these bags during Sunday School on Sunday, November 17th. We are also asking each family to donate boxed



mashed potatoes and/or turkey gravy that is greatly needed for the Thanksgiving meals as part of November's

Service project. We will need these items by Sunday, November 17th before Sunday School. Everyone's help and support is greatly appreciated as we help out our community this holiday season.

Thanksgiving Tree

We would like to invite everyone to help us out with a special project this month. The youth will sponsor a "Tree of Thanks" located in the Narthex in November. We are inviting everyone to help us fill the tree with "Leaves of Thanks". Just fill out a leaf located by the tree with something or someone you are thankful to God for and hang that leaf on the tree. You can fill out as many leaves each week as you would like! We hope that this is a simple reminder of all that God has blessed us with!

We will also have tags on the tree that you can take to donate \$10 toward the purchase of Acme gift cards for our Siffrin friends and Food Pantry families to help out with their Thanksgiving dinner expenses. Please take a tag and return it to the Church office by Sunday, November 17th. Thank you for your support!!!

November 23rd Service Event at the Akron Canton Regional Foodbank

We will be taking a group of volunteers to the Akron Canton Regional Foodbank on Saturday, November 23rd. We will leave from the church at 8:00 am sharp to head up to the Foodbank. We will volunteer from 8:30 to 11:30 am then head back to the church for pick up. We are hoping to take a group of 15 to 20 people. Youth, 10 years & older, and any adults are welcome to join us. Transportation will be provided for those who need it. A sign-up sheet is located in the Narthex for anyone interested and able to join us.



2019 Youth Missions Craft Show Wrap Up and Thank Yous!

Thank you to everyone for a great 2019 craft show! We had a beautiful Fall day, a very steady flow of shoppers and a very positive and enthusiastic energy in the air! This year's show was a big success with 33 vendors and crafters! The comments received on the crafter and vendor surveys at the end of the show were very positive and very appreciative of the Craft Show leaders' and volunteers' efforts. All proceeds from this year's show will go to the Habitat Humanity Faith Build 2020. We hope to meet over half of our \$5000 commitment to this project with this year's proceeds.

First, a huge thank you goes out to Connie Frank & Jayne Schrader for organizing and leading such an awesome event. They put in a lot of hours and hard work to make this year's show so successful! A big thank you also goes out to Vicki Givler for all of her administrative help for the event, and to Laura Thompson for recruiting additional crafters for this year's show.

Next, we would like to thank our German Dinner team for all of their time and hard work in the kitchen. We pre-sold over 130 dinners this year and had many walk-up orders during the show that kept them busy. The apple cider pork & spaetzle and brat & sauerkraut dinners were so delicious and enjoyed by all on such a beautiful Fall day! Thank you Dale Jacobs, Darlene Milavickas, Dave Palumbo, Ron Tvorick, and Mark Votaw! A big thank you also goes out to Randy Cizek for the addition of Brisket sandwiches to our menu this year – they were so delicious that we sold out!

The Raffle Baskets created by the Sunday School classes (OSU Fan Basket, Lottery Ticket Wreath and Sweet Treats Basket) and Susan Heyard and Evelyn Moore (Snowman Basket & Holiday Basket)) were once again a big hit this year! Two lovely additions to our raffle table this year were a Christmas Quilt made by Zion's Comfort Givers and two quilted purses donated by Linda Lancashire. Thank you to the youth, their parents, the congregation, the Comfort Givers, Susan, Evelyn and Linda for all of the donations for the raffle table.

We would also like to thank the members of the congregation who donated items for concessions and delicious bake sale items to help raise funds during the craft show. Your support is always so generous and greatly appreciated! Thanks to the youth for the delicious goodies (candy corn mix and chocolate dipped oreos, rice krispie treats, nutter butters, marshmallows & pretzels) they made during Sunday School for the bake sale. We had another record year at the Bake Sale table thanks to the great treats and hard working volunteers!

A huge thank you to Janet Slease, Connie Riffle and Melissa & Matt Leasure for organizing and running our concessions again this year! As always, things ran very smoothly and nobody went away hungry or thirsty! Thank you to Jeff & Connie Frank, Jayne Schrader, Darlene Milavickas and John Rhodes for setting up on Friday night. Next, a big thank you to Jayne Schrader, Jeff, Connie & Carley Frank, Eric Dague, Amber Hassig, Jeremy Fox, Amelia Milek, John, Mallory & Marcus Rhodes, Cheryl Roman, Laura & Christopher Thompson, Casey Walters, Susan Whalen and LJ Brown who all took part in handling the bake sale, raffle ticket table and other duties the day of the Craft Show! We would also like to thank the many volunteers who helped with clean up Saturday after the show. Everyone pitched in and finished the job quickly! Next, we would like to thank Laura Thompson for organizing and setting up a table for Zion at this year's show, and Rob Frock, Jim & Elaine Fidler and Brian & Nicole Milek for volunteering at the table to share information and answer questions about Zion. Finally, a big thank to Pastor Weidenbach for being at the show all day talking with the crafters & vendors, the visitors and the volunteers making everyone feel so welcome and appreciated. This event takes a large group of committed volunteers, and we are so grateful to everyone for all of their time and hard work. We are already looking forward to and planning for next year's event!

Trunk or Treat Thank Yous!

Our first Trunk or Treat was a huge success! Over 100 kids and their families joined us to "trunk or treat" at 17 cars with different themed decorations and lots of treats and candy to pass out! The kids' costumes were awesome and everyone had so much fun. The weather cooperated and we even had glimpses of sun! The kids and their families also enjoyed grilled hot dogs, chips, donuts, edible cookie dough, cider, coffee and hot chocolate! A big thank you to Randy Cizek for grilling the dogs and to Darlene Milavickas for setting up all the food. We would also like to thank everyone who brought their cars to pass out candy - Terri Cizek, Laurie Corbit, Eric, Justin & Steve Dague, Jeff Elliott, Jeremy & Debbie Fox, Erin Black, Linda Lancashire, Darlene & Lou Milavickas, Kay Reiss, John Rhodes, Laura & Christopher Thompson, Mark Votaw, Pastor & Linda Weidenbach and Susan & Sarah Whalen. Everyone's support of this event is so greatly appreciated! It was an awesome day of fun & fellowship and sharing God's love with our community! We can't wait for next year's event!





Youth Spotlight of the Month



We were all discussing how thankful we are for Jesus one Sunday, and we asked the kids:

If you could go to lunch and share a meal with Jesus, where would you go and what would you talk about?

<u>LJ Brown</u> - Texas Roadhouse, and I would ask about having some play dates with his kids if he has any.

Ben Keith – Texas Roadhouse, and I would ask him what it's like in Heaven.

<u>Drew Keith</u> - A buffet, and I would ask him about his animals.

<u>Justin Dague</u> – Wendy's, and I would talk about his family.

<u>Jeremy Fox</u> – Carrabba's, and I would basically talk about everything.

<u>Cassie Frank</u> – Samantha's, and I would talk to him about Heaven.

Amelia Milek - Five Guys, and I would talk about aliens.

<u>Weston Milek</u> – Olive Garden, and I don't know what I would talk about.

<u>Chrissy Nicholson</u> – Dunkin Donuts, and I would talk about life.

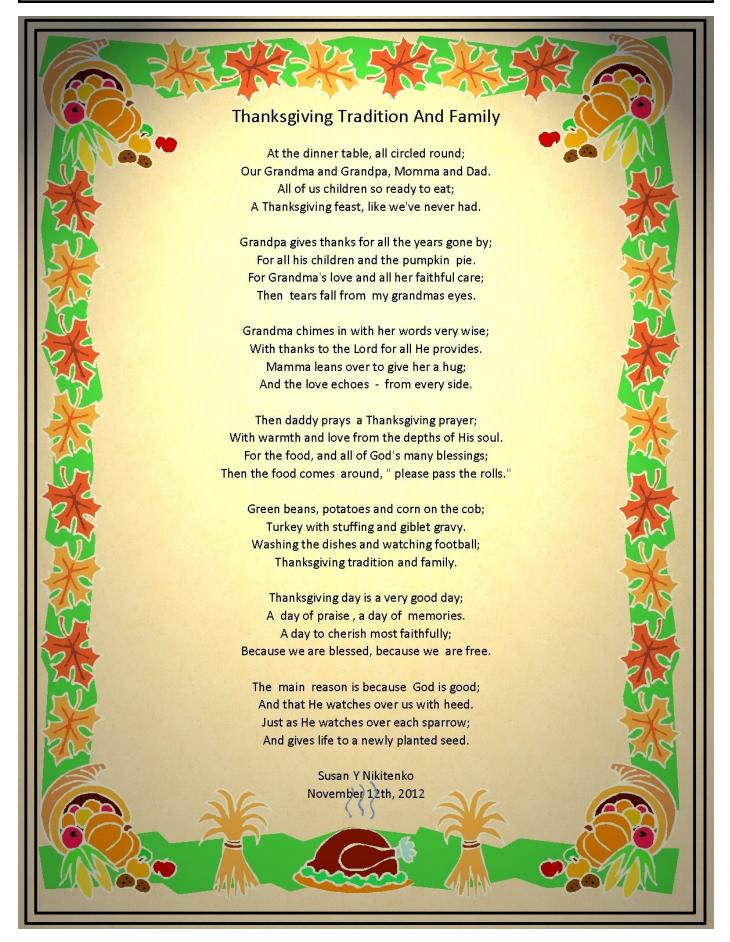
<u>Marcus Rhodes</u> – Max & Erma's, and I talk about what the future may hold and how to deal with it.

<u>Christopher Thompson</u> - Panda Express, and I would talk to him about life.

<u>Casey Walters</u> – Red Robin, and I would talk about his resurrection.



WE WANT TO WISH EVERYONE A VERY BLESSED AND HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



November Mission Interpreters Message

My fellow Zioneers! I am excited to talk about Faithbuild 2020 and Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity was founded in 1978. Since then they have built, rehabilitated or preserved more than 800,000 homes! That makes Habitat the largest Not-for-profit builder in the world! They have touched the lives of more than four million people. And here is the cool thing, they are not giving these homes away. This is not a charity. They help people who are





working but disadvantaged and not able to obtain Faith Build 2020 mortgages. The Habitat clients learn about money management, they learn about taking care of a home, they learn how to become good homeowners. They are required to invest sweat equity in not only their home but also into other client's homes. THEN they are helped with a no-interest mortgage.

Here in Stark County the local Habitat chapter has built more than 500 homes. 2019 will see them build or preserve 30+ homes. This has an overwhelming effect on a family. Owning a home means a foundation of safety and the ability to start to build wealth. Getting people off the street is great. This is a huge step beyond. Habitat helps families lift themselves out of the vicious cycle of poverty.





Zion will be participating in FaithBuild 2020. Habitat was given a property that had been a school at 23rd NE and Maple. There is enough space to build 3 smallish homes. The families you see on this page are the families who will be living in those homes. We will prepare for the build through the winter and spring. We will have many opportunities to go and work on these homes.

The FaithBuild project that brings 36 faith communities together to get this work done. At the same time we are forging friendships and understandings with folks from other communities. I see this as a Huge Win-Win-Win for everyone. We have committed \$5000. The craft show raised about half of what we will need we will be doing other projects to raise the rest of the money.

Bishop Eaton often describes the ELCA as a Publicly Engaged Church that "rolls up our sleeves and gets to work." FaithBuild is one opportunity to be a part of that. I can't wait to meet these families and bring you more of their stories.

Yours in Christ, Mark Votaw 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.givle	r@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		

