The Zion Herald

Proclaiming Good News

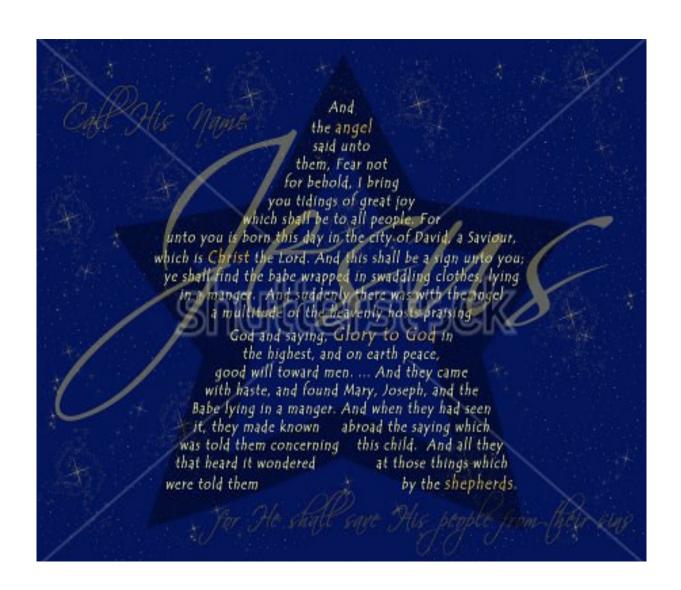
January 2020

As we begin this new year let's take a moment to remember who we are and what has been given us.

"See what love the Father has given us, that we should

be called children of God; AND SO WE ARE!" (1 John 3:1)

Have a Happy and Blessed New Year!





Pastor's Ponderings

January, 2020

It's a New Year. What will we do new here this year?

Somewhere, I read this question: "If someone from the 1960s came to your church would they feel at home?"

The follow-up question was; "What would it take to make people from the 21st Century feel at home? And what difference could that make to your weekly attendance demograph-

ic?"

So it got me to pondering:

- How do our grounds look? Many folks spend a lot of time raking leaves and such; are they cleaning up grounds that are dated and past it's prime? Are our neighbors pleased to have us next door, or do they wish we'd update a bit and improve their value?
- Is our parking lot welcoming or does it look neglected?
- What kind of message do bars across the parking lot send? I can tell you that what I hear from non-members is not good.
- Do our parking lot signs exhibit "love and welcome," or "keep out"?
- Speaking of signs there certainly is no lack of signage in and outside our building; it reminds me of the 1970 hit by the Five Man Electrical Band, Signs

Sign, sign, everywhere a sign Blockin' out the scenery, breakin' my mind Do this, don't do that, can't you read the sign?

What message do our signs send? Do they block the scenery (the cross and its message?)

In prior generations the church was part of the everyday culture. Unfortunately, that changed and the current culture isn't familiar with church or what goes on inside it. Does our outside appearance send a message of curiosity, invitation and welcome to our current culture? Statistically, 88% of the population doesn't come inside a church; what responsibility do we take for contributing to that with our outward appearance?

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

Graciously, Pr. William

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Well it is January. Our society says Christmas is over on Dec.26th but for us it isn't over until Jan. 5th. But really Christmas is never over for us. We are sharing and spreading God's love all year round. We need to work on keeping the Christmas Spirit going. It is hard after we take down all the festive decorations. The house, or church, seems naked and gloomy. We also need to remember that those needy people we helped during Christmas are still out there and need our help. We need to keep the Love of Christ going.

Zion is planning lots of activities in the near future. Your council members will be telling you more about the events or projects and how you can help. You will find out more as you read on. There is always something we can do for our neighbors. When we do for someone we are doing for Jesus.

I will be going to Florida to see family in mid January and February, but I will always be available by phone or e-mail. Please don't hesitate to contact me.

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

MINISTRY REPORTS



CARING MINISTRY

Now that we are in the Holiday Season your Zion Food Pantry will be providing additional food items to cover Christmas meals.

Please support your food pantry in providing a Merry Christmas to all our clients. During November we served 244 people from 138 households. The November client breakdown was as follows: 31 children {0-17}, 119 adults (18-59), and 94 seniors (age 60+). This information comes from the required Monthly Statistical Report for Akron Canton Regional Foodbank.

FOOD PANTRY needs spaghetti sauce, crunchy peanut butter, jelly (any flavor except grape), canned fruit, flavored instant oatmeal, and creamed soups of all kinds.



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@sbsglobal.net, if you have any prayer requests.

G. Scott Gross



LEARNING MINISTRY

Adult Sunday School Class: Jeff's class will complete the epistle of Titus and will also examine Philemon and Jeff will then Hebrews.



have a discussion and analysis of the major characteristics and concerns of all of Paul's epistles. Jeff provides such an inspiring discussion for his class!

Youth Sunday School Class: In December, the youth helped donate and wrapped the gifts for the Pantry families and the North Canton CARE Team. They presented their play, "CHRISTMAS" on December 15. It was awesome to see the younger boys have their first speaking parts! It's always such a great tradition to look forward to our The youth also provided a Christmas play. delicious pasta dinner for Advent.

God's Peace be with you, Janet Slease

SOCIAL MINISTRY



What a year our Church had in 2019! Maybe more specifically - what an August thru December our Church had! Someone

told me the other day that they couldn't hardly keep up with all the different things going on at They also noted that the level of service activities has increased significantly in the last part of the year. And they are so right! With inspiration from Pastor William (and his hard work to back it up) Zion has begun to transform into a church of faithful believers that better serves its community and its members. We have many things from the past that we will preserve along the way of course.

Council set up a Task Force to learn more specifically about what our congregation and community need. My hope for the Social Ministry is that it can support at least 2-3 large community events per year - events that people can count on each year from Zion that are fun and helpful to the stresses of daily life. Also, wouldn't it be fantastic if we could also help families not only with our support of the Food Pantry but maybe childcare? Maybe seniors in our community need transportation to doctors visits? This will lead us to events and activities in 2020 that may be different from the past. Please let me or anyone on Council know if you would like to participate in the Task Force. Zion has so much potential to have an impact in our community. Let's take advantage of the strong momentum we have built.

Happy New Year! Respectfully submitted, Laura Thompson Social Ministry Elder

WORSHIP & MUSIC



We want to thank everyone for their participation and dedicated efforts to make 2019 Advent and Christmas Eve services a success. We want to thank the Cooks, the clean up crews, the readers, the musicians and of course the chancel members

who put a lot of work into making sure our services run smoothly. Church is about sharing our gifts and talents to help one another to do Gods will. Thank you all!

Brian Walters Worship Ministry Elder

COMFORT GIVERS

Comfort Givers Sewing Group will get back to work in January on the 2nd and 4th Thursday and each month for the coming year. Hopefully some new faces and steady hands will join us.



The Adult Sunday School class has been studying the Apostle Paul's journeys, teaching of the Good News after his conversion. His steadfast faith and belief in his God and Savior. The Apostles were men "sent out" to bring the Gospel to all the world, to the ends of the earth.

In our discussion it was brought up of Jesus **calling** his disciples "to come and follow me". In my years, I was taught a poem that will refresh all our memories. When repeated it can almost become a song which helps our memory.

Jesus Calling His Twelve Disciples

Jesus called them one by one,
Peter, Andrew, James and John.
Next came Philip, Thomas too,
Matthew and Bartholomew
James the one they called the Less
Simon, also Thaddeaus.
Last came Judas, twelve he made,
Jesus was by him betrayed.

January 2020 starts a new year, a new decade. We are called to love and serve here at Zion. May we all join together in building up our congregation, giving thanks and praise to our God and Living Savior.

In His Service, Betty Tracy

ZION'S FINANCIAL FACTS IN NOVEMBER 2019

November Income	\$ 34,779.80
Income through November	\$193,777.92
November Expenses	\$ 19,821.90
Expenses through November	\$200,012.52

November Surplus \$ 14,957.90 2019 YTD Deficit -\$ 6,234.60

We thank you for your generous support!

JANUARY SENIOR BIRTHDAYS

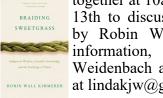
January 11	Verle Elsass
January 11	Helen Heller Jerald Hirschman
January 13 January 14	Juanita Cignetti
January 20	Gail Vogt
January 23	Kathy Dawson
January 28	Barbara White

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

January 2 Johanna & Robert Henderson

January 13 Ruth & Verle Elsass

BOOK OF THE MONTH: We're going to get



together at 10am on Thursday, February 13th to discuss "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Will Kimmerer. For more information, please contact Weidenbach at 850-766-5640 or e-mail at lindakjw@gmail.com.

TUTORING

Linda Weidenbach will offer one-on-one tutoring in half hour slots between 3pm and 5pm at Zion on Sunday, January, 19, and 26. It is



for community children - all ages and subjects. If you are interested, call Vicki Givler at the Zion church office by Thursday for the upcoming Sunday.

VOLLEYBALL

Linda Weidenbach is organizing a volleyball group to play on the third Thursday of the month. The first night for volleyball will be January



16th from 7 pm to 9pm. For more information, please contact Linda Weidenbach at 850-766-5640 or e-mail at lindakjw@gmail.com.



Building men for Christ

The Canton/ Massillon Conference Winter Breakfast will be held here at Zion on Satur-

day, February 8, 2020. Registration begins at 8 am, breakfast at 8:30 am, and program from 9 am to 11 am. Guest Speaker will be Rick Woods, a guidance counselor at Northwest High School on the topic of "Finding Good in the Garbage!". Please contact Ken Reinoehl at 330-866-2452 or reinoehlk@gmail.com to register no later than February 2, 2020.

2020 Goals Witness Ministry

I have always thought about the Witness Ministry as the Zion Marketing Department. Good marketing is about telling the organization's story in order to get others to buy into that narrative. For us that means telling Jesus' story in words and actions to create a community that people want to be a part of.

We have begun that process. We are being more intentional about how we welcome visitors. We want to make sure they feel included, that they know that we are glad they are with us. We have done a mailing to the 100 neighbors closest to the church, inviting folks Welcome the Christ Child with us.



We are taking the next steps on the website. The vision is to have a site that does three things:

- 1. First point of contact for people looking for a new church home
- 2. Foster Communication within the community
- 3. Be a point of connection where folks who are struggling can go to get connected to organizations that are offering help

We have Several Community Projects planned for early next year.

- 1. Lenten Lutheran "Good GiftsTM" Barnyard Project
- 2. Little Pantry Box
- 3. Community Garden
- 4. "Faith Build" with Habitat for Humanity



The real question is what do you want to do? What sets your pants on fire? What story do you want to tell about Jesus, about Zion? The witness ministry wants to help YOU realize YOUR MISSION GOALS! We have a critical mass of good people looking to do good things. If we can get them in motion, we can do miracles! There is no better feeling than understanding that the Holy Spirit is working through you! This came home to me and many of our kids in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

This is a print I bought several years ago. I hang it in my office, pointing at me. It reminds me every day that in order for something to happen, I have to do something about it!

How can we reach out to our neighbors? Define those neighbors anyway you want. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church is a great big ball of potential energy; like an archer with his bow drawn and waiting. We need one or several focuses to aim that energy. This is an army ready to march. Onward Christian Soldiers! Releasing that energy will tell our stories. THAT IS THE GOAL OF THE WITNESS MINISTRY!



I need your help to locate those focus points. So, I ask you again:

WHO DO YOU WANT TO SERVE?

WHAT ISSUE DO YOU WANT TO WORK ON?

WHAT PROBLEM DO YOU WANT TO TACKLE?

The cool thing is that when we dig in and start to do Christ's work, he will send us folks to help us. He will send experts. He will send workers just like us. Doing this work will make us more welcoming. It

will make us more attractive. It will create a buzz where people say, "Did you see what Zion is up to, they have their act together!" That will create growth – Internal and External.

I am looking for someone interested in being the Chief Gardener, Chief Greeter, Chief Facebook Poster, Chief Publisher and Website Coordinator. If you are interested in any of these let me know. mavnav123@gmail.com or give your contact info to Vicki and I will get to you.

The Witness Ministry would ask your prayers in the following directions:

Inspiration – for the right words – the right ideas – the right images – the right projects

Participation – People to buy into this idea of personal mission/group action

Perseverance - keep us looking for the Inspiration and Participation

Resources – I don't know what this means right now but I am sure that getting this message out will require all kinds of juice. Pray for Juice.

Peace – Please pray for the soldiers, that given their struggle, they sleep well knowing that they are fighting the good fight.

I would like to humbly thank everyone at Zion for their support as I move through the seminary process. You all have contributed beyond your knowledge to my personal journey and hopefully we can carry that story forward.

Yours in Christ Mark Votaw Witness Elder

Mission Interpretation:

Your church is a church in motion, reaching out to make people's lives better. This month I have two stories from (Living Lutheran, December 2019) that made me cry; one for joy and one for sorrow.

The sad story is that of hunger in America. Ryan P. Cumming is Program Director for Hunger Education with ELCA World Hunger. He describes many of the groups most effected by hunger. Single parent families, families of color, and LGBTQ families are especially vulnerable.

What can WE do about this?

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO END HUNGER



Worship on Sunday forms Lutherans Worship on Sunday forms Lutherans for service on Monday. When your congregation gathers, include local and global hunger in your prayers, liturgy, hymns and sermons. Consider using ELCA World Hunger "40 Days of Giving" resources with your congregation during Lent. Download a weekly study, Lenten calendar and more at elca.org/40days.



World Hunger resources—including adult studies, vacation Bible school curricula, toolkits and more—can help you, your family and your congregation learn more about hunger around the world and in the U.S. Visit elca.org/ hunger/resources to download or order. To learn more about hunger and poverty in your community, click on the "Hunger Ed" tab to find the "Know Your Neighborhood" guide.



Help World Hunger is a primary way the ELCA supports ministries working to end hunger—including sustainable agriculture, maternal health care, refugee resettlement, microloans for elca.org/hunger to learn more and to support this vital ministry



Advocate
ELCA Advocacy helps congregation
members connect with legislators at
the federal, state and local levels to
ensure fair and just laws and policies.
Learn more at elca.org/advocacy.



rollow ELCA ministries on social media to get the latest information on grants, new resources and current events. Find World Hunger on Facebook at facebook.com/ elcaworldhunger, Lutheran Disaster Response at facebook. com/elcaldr and ELCA Advocacy at facebook.com/elcaadvocacy.
For faith reflections, stories and updates, visit World Hunger's blog at blogs.elca.org/worldhunger.



If you feel called to start or to grow a hunger ministry, check out World Hunger's how-to guides on community gardens, backpack programs and food drives for tips from other leaders in ELCA ministries. Visit elca.org/hunger/ resources and click the

Ryan outlines several steps we can take to help serve these folks. Clearly taking on Hunger is much more complicated than making soup and PB and Js!

The population of our corner of Stark County (Jackson, Plain, and North Canton) is about



More than 11% of U.S. households (about 37.2 million people) were food insecure in 2018.

This includes 12.65 million people facing "very low food security," meaning they skipped meals or reduced their food intake multip times during the year.

In a country where the food system provides up to 4,000 calories per person per day:

And for more than 12 million peopl that next meal won't come at all.

110,000. That means that there are more than 12.000 folks who are food insecure within 10 miles of our church! We serve a little less than 200 families every month at our Food bank.

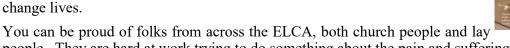
It is a start, what are our next steps?

The happy story comes from The Happy Joes. This is a men's group from Mount Morris Holden Lutheran Church in Wautoma, Wisconsin. These guys made more than 500 toys for children in need. Their whole community came together to make this

on going project a

success. Lumber yard donated lumber and supplies. A bag of miscellaneous toy wheels "appeared" on someone's doorstep. Folks sewed quilts for doll cradles and knit stuffed animals. They make more than 15 different kinds of toys and serve nearly 1500 children.

This article spoke to me for two reasons. First, they talk about not knowing how to get started so they just started. "It was clear from the first meeting that God was leading us forward. We did not know what to do. We had a list of names and that was it. That is where God took Over." They have now been doing this for eight years. Second, 30 years ago a Lutheran pastor knocked on my door. He had a check to help us provide a nicer Christmas for our children. When you are good to me that is nice. When you are good to children you change lives.



people. They are hard at work trying to do something about the pain and suffering of an imperfect world. They are looking to us to find neighbors to serve. The Holy Spirit is out there working in the world TODAY! I challenge you to open your hearts to see her out there. But be warned when you find her you will need to do something with her.

Yours in Christ Mark Votaw



News from Zion's Youth

Happy Birthday to:



Marissa Hilson – January 1st Carli Brown - January 4th Drew Keith – January 19th Casey Walters - January 21th

Upcoming Events – Mark your calendars!

January 3rd – 5th: NEO LYO Youth Gathering in Independence Sunday, January 5th: Sunday School Classes resume at 9:15 am Saturday, January 25th: Service Event - Stark County Humane Society 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Sunday School News

We will resume our normal class schedule at 9:15 am on Sunday, January 5th for all ages. We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and look forward to seeing everyone as we start off the New Year - 2020!

"CHRISTMAS"

This year's children's Program was called "CHRISTMAS". We got to enjoy a group of kids hanging out and discussing what Christmas means, and why we do all that we do during the Christmas season. The kids took turns using each letter of CHRISTMAS to describe a part of the holiday. The first time through they came up with many of the secular things from Christmas like cookies, cocoa, holly, Rudolph, icicle lights, stockings, tree, malls, advertisements and of course, Santa. But is this all there could be...of course not! The second time through, the kids discovered and described the real Christmas story and true meaning of Christmas. C is for Census, H is for hard journey, R is for no room at the inn, I is innkeeper, S is for shepherds, T is for treasurers, M is for Magi, A is for angels and S is for Savior - the Lord Jesus Christ, who brought salvation to all, paying such a great price. The kids' descriptions along with scripture readings were a wonderful way to tell the story of CHRISTMAS and what it really means!





A big thank you goes out to everyone who helped with this year's Christmas Program. It was such a great program, and the kids did a fantastic job! We truly hope you enjoyed this year's play, a cast of Zion's finest, the humor, the dialogue and the music, as much as we did. A big thank you goes out to our Sunday School staff and Pastor William for all of their help and to the kids for all of their hard work. We would also like to thank Suzanne Walters for her musical direction and Brian Walters & Loraine Weinman for taking care of the sound system. Everyone's time, dedication and commitment make our program such a success and is so greatly appreciated! Thank You! Thank You! Thank you to everyone involved!

Youth News

December was a very busy month for Zion's youth, and there are many thank yous to share! First, thank you to everyone who generously supported Zion's Giving Tree this year. It was another great success! We were able to collect gifts for four families, three from our Pantry and one from the NCCS CARE Program. We also received many \$25 donations and \$25 Acme gift cards toward the 64 Acme Gift Cards that were given to our Pantry families to help with their Christmas meals. This year we again included the residents at the Wernle Youth and Family Treatment Center in our Christmas giving. Through generous cash donations and the Youth Fund, we were able to sponsor the entire cost of Christmas for 4 1/2 kids. We also collected six WalMart gift cards that will be used to shop for the Wernle kids. Lastly, through donations from our youth families, we sent 14 stockings with items like candy, socks, journals, hairbrushes, lotions, lip balm and lip gloss, fast food gift cards and gloves to fill those stockings for the unit of teenage girls at Wernle. They were so grateful and overwhelmed for all of our efforts. That is truly a picture of what the Christmas Season is about – sharing God's love and helping those in need! It is so wonderful to know that Zion is such a compassionate, loving and overwhelmingly generous congregation!

Second, we must thank the youth of all ages, parents, Sunday School leaders and Pastor William who helped wrap all of the Giving Tree gifts. This is always a lot of fun and greatly appreciated! We had a great day on Saturday, December 14th! We started off with an enthusiastic rehearsal, followed by a delicious pizza party! After lunch, we played the left/right game so the kids could exchange their giant candy gifts that they brought. We ended our afternoon with wrapping the Giving Tree gifts. There were a lot of laughs, a lot fun and also a lot of good work done! We truly appreciate everyone taking time out during this busy time of year. A huge thank you to our Sunday School leaders, Pastor William and parents who helped with play practice and the pizza party.

Finally, thank you to all of the youth and their families who helped with the Youth Advent dinner on December 15th. We really appreciate the dedication of our youth and their families, especially during the busy holiday season. A big thank you goes out to our kitchen crew led by Jeff Frank and John Rhodes and all of our youth and parents for all of their hard work. The pasta, meatballs, garlic bread, salad, and desserts were delicious and enjoyed by all. Also, thank you to everyone who set up, contributed food, helped to serve the meal and clean up afterward. We are so lucky to have such a great group of families that are always willing to pitch in and help! It was a nice evening and a wonderful way to end such a busy weekend for our youth and families!

December was truly a great month for the youth of Zion and our congregation. Everyone should be proud of all we accomplished and shared! Let's keep this spirit and momentum going in 2020!

As we begin the New Year, look for some fun events that we will be having for the youth and for our families! We are in the planning stages for these activities and will have more information coming soon.



Caroling at The Inn at Whitewood

We had a group of 10 people go caroling on December 8th. We were able to visit with Barb Achauer, Chuck Danner and Dick Spall while caroling at Whitewood. Many residents joined in with us as we sang traditional Christmas Carols spreading joy and goodwill. We were invited into several rooms to sing as well as caroling through the halls and in the main dining area. It was such a great time singing, laughing and sharing God's love! Thank you to everyone who joined us!

NEO LYO Gathering 20

We are excited to have a couple of our youth going to the 2020 LYO Gathering in Independence, Ohio from January 3-5th. This year's theme is God's Vision for You is 20/20. Mallory Rhodes and Chrissy Nicholson will be attending as members of the Northeast Ohio Synod Lutheran Youth Organization Board (NEOS LYO Board). They have both served 2 year terms that end in January 2020. Thank you to Mallory and Chrissy for all of their time and dedication to the Board and for representing Zion so exceptionally.

Volunteer Opportunity

<u>Saturday</u>, <u>January 25th</u> - We will be going to the Stark County Humane Society to volunteer from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Transportation will be available for those who need it. Sign up sheets are located in the Narthex.

Final ACME Receipt Reminder

<u>Please remember to turn in your Acme receipts dated between August 8th and December 28th.</u> All receipts must be turned in by January 26th in order to meet the submission deadline. The collection jar is located in the Narthex. Thanks for your support!!!



The Zion Sunday School Staff would like to wish all of our families God's blessings & peace and a very Happy New Year!



Youth Spotlight – Thoughts for the New Year!

What is one wish you have for the new year?

<u>Carli Brown</u> – To have a lot of paper for coloring

LJ Brown - Good health for my family

Ben Keith - Getting gifts

Drew Keith - Build a snowman

Justin Dague - Buy a new car

Jeremy Fox - To be successful

<u>Cassie Frank</u> - Get good grades

Amelia Milek - To pass the Algebra I test at the end of the year

& move on to Geometry

Weston Milek - That it is easy

<u>Chrissy Nicholson</u> - To do well in college

Marcus Rhodes - Get shredded

Christopher Thompson - To enjoy winter break

<u>Casey Walters</u> - To become a US sailor

What do you plan to do differently this year?

<u>Carli Brown</u> – Go swimming more often

LJ Brown - Donate toys

Ben Keith - Snowball fights

Drew Keith - Make my bed

<u>Justin Dague</u> - Become a better person

Jeremy Fox - Work harder

Cassie Frank - Be more organized

Amelia Milek - Nothing

Weston Milek - Be nicer

<u>Chrissy Nicholson</u> - Change exercise habits – exercise more

<u>Marcus Rhodes</u> - I'm going to actually study

Christopher Thompson - Take more naps

<u>Casey Walters</u> - Become a US sailor



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

<u>Church Office Hours</u> <u>Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.</u>

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	er@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. Zion Evangelical I utheran Church ora		

